

WISCONSIN BANKERS' FARM BULLETIN

Meat Making as a Business

By

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YESTERDAY'S CORN MARKET. TOMORROW'S BODY BUILDER.

The meat-making business furnishes the farmer with a market for grain and forage, saves the by-products for farm use, and supplies the nation with an important article of food. Meat is the human body's carpenter. It builds up the muscles and helps create red blood.

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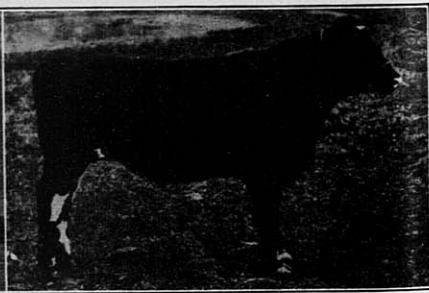
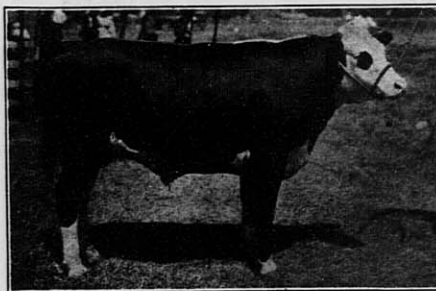
Meat Making as a Business

Meat making is a many-sided business. It combines either buying or growing with manufacturing and selling. Producers of meat, whether beef, mutton, or pork, manufacture and sell important food products. They buy or raise such raw materials as grain and forage which, by the aid of special machines—live animals—are manufactured into finished products. Whether they succeed or not depends upon a number of important factors. Their raw materials, either home-grown or purchased, must be sufficiently low in price, high in quality and efficient in character to make it profitable to turn them into meat. The live animals or machines for turning these materials into meat must be capable of making good use of the feed given them and the feeder or farmer must make a study of his markets in order to sell the fattened animals to good advantage.

MARKET CORN ON HOOF

The direct marketing of corn is generally condemned as a soil robbing process. The farmer with a good eye to business markets his farm crops through live stock, thus saving on his farm a large amount of the plant food produced and at the same time selling his products in finished form and therefore at an advanced price.

HOW DO YOU MARKET YOUR CORN?



I paid back \$1.01 a bushel for my corn. It took me only 120 days to make the same total gain as my mate on this page. While he gained but 1.7 pounds, I gained 2.5 pounds a day.

But see what I had to eat daily: 25 pounds corn silage, 4 pounds clover hay, 3 pounds cotton seed meal and 15 pounds of corn.

I marketed corn at 66 cents a bushel. They had to feed me 176 days, for I gained but 1.7 pounds daily.

But do you blame me? They gave me each day 13 pounds of timothy hay and 15 pounds of corn.

He, however, chooses the feeds for his live stock according to market prices and their efficiency and feeds them in combinations to prevent waste of nutrients. Although timothy hay can be grown and cured easily and despite the fact that it demands a higher price on the markets, the business farmer does not attempt to market it profitably by feeding it in combination with corn to steers or other meat making animals.

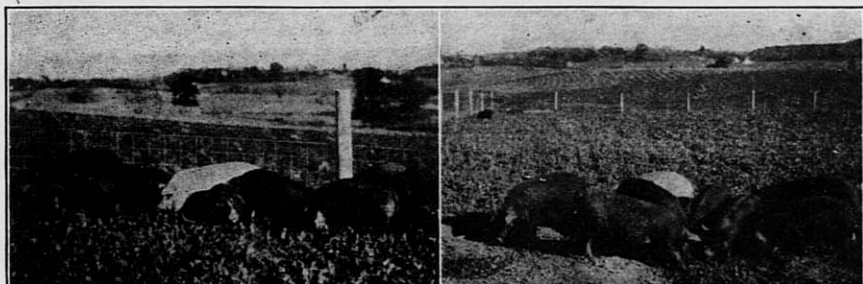
The accompanying illustration shows the difference in efficiency between a ration of timothy hay and corn and a well balanced ration consisting of corn silage, clover hay, corn and cotton seed meal. The timothy hay ration was wasteful because of its inefficiency, whereas the balanced ration was palatable, economical and efficient.

MAKES BOTH ENDS MEET

The hog has been termed the mortgage lifter, because it is the animal that turns corn into meat at the least cost. However, there are many men who hesitate to feed high priced corn to hogs, and in some of the dairy sections of Wisconsin the raising of hogs on the farm has either become a side-issue or has been dropped altogether.

In early days, hogs were grown almost entirely on what forage they could find. Then came the period of feeding hogs almost exclusively on corn in the corn belt and later protein supplements were added to the corn ration.

DO YOUR PIGS GET ANY FORAGE?



"We sold for 9 cents a pound at the feed lot and paid back \$1.22 a bushel for the corn we ate. It took only 125 days after weighing 522 pounds to make us weigh 225 pounds for we gained 1.36 pounds daily. "We each had the run of 1/15 of an acre of rape. Besides this we each ate daily 5.1 pounds corn and 0.222 pounds tankage. We had some appetite for corn. (Photograph taken four weeks before we were sold.)"

"We will probably market corn at 90 cents a bushel or less. They will have to feed us 180 days after we weigh 53½ pounds each to make us weigh 225 pounds, for we are gaining but 0.91 pounds daily.

"We are not to blame. Our ration is balanced but they keep us in a dry lot and this is what we are eating daily—4.3 pounds corn and 0.348 pounds tankage."

In the past few years a great deal of attention has been given to the use of forage crops to supplement the grain ration in the growing of hogs up to marketable age. Results obtained at several experiment stations indicate that the dry lot method of growing and fattening hogs in summer is doomed to pass away before the use of forage crops.

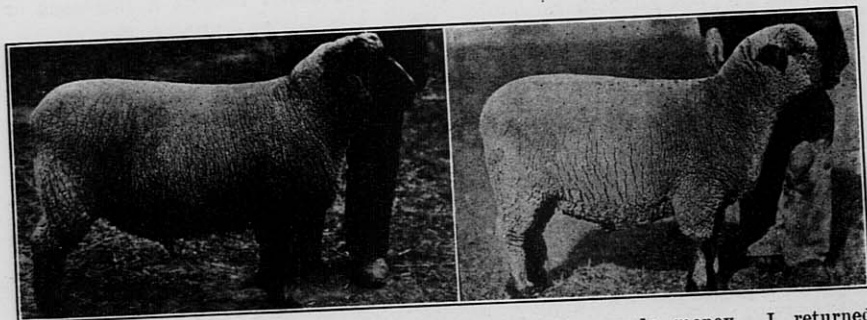
Rape is probably the best annual forage crop for pigs in most sections of Wisconsin. It can be easily grown, comes up quickly, grows well throughout the season, and can be planted right in the hog lot. Red clover is also an excellent forage crop, and where alfalfa thrives and is not killed out too quickly by pasturing, it even excels red clover or rape. Other good forage crops for pigs are oats and field peas, soybeans (especially on light, sandy soil), and a mixture of oats, peas, and rape. Blue grass, though less valuable, is much better than a dry lot.

COULD FEED MORE SHEEP

Wisconsin is a great sheep state, but is not producing nearly the number of the golden hoofed animals she ought.

Much of the sheep feeding that is done in the country is done by professional sheep feeders who need no advice as to how money can be made in the making of mutton. These men know the value of leguminous roughages such as clover and alfalfa hay and pea vines. They also know that sheep are good animals to clean up weeds and other growing material around the farm. Besides, they know that the sheep will fatten on such feeds as mill screenings, and salvage grain.

ARE YOU STILL TRYING TO MAKE MUTTON WITH TIMOTHY HAY?



"My feeder lost money—I returned only 86.9 cents a bushel for corn and had to be fed 146 days to gain 35 pounds. I had a balanced ration, but an expensive and inefficient one. Look at my daily ration. They made me eat 1 pound timothy hay, 1 pound corn, and 0.2 pound cotton seed meal."

"My feeder made money. I returned \$1.19 a bushel for corn and made my 35 pounds of gain in 100 days. Clover hay was grown on our farm. See the farm-grown ration I ate daily—1.5 pounds clover hay and 1.3 pounds corn."

Among the growers of sheep there are many who keep small flocks of ewes. Sometimes we do not give the sheep the attention we should. Too often we seem to think that sheep are side issues and that mutton on the farm is simply a by-product of the principal farm operations. This, of course, is wrong. The production of mutton is a business, and in recent years has been a very profitable business.

While sheep are good weed killers, and clean up and fertilize the farm, they respond readily to the right kind of feeding, and can be made most profitably by feeding the farm-grown feeds. Grain feeds can be fed most profitably when the right kind of roughage is fed in connection. The accompanying illustrations show the marked value of a balanced ration of clover hay and corn over a balanced ration of corn, timothy hay and cotton seed meal. Clover is the great friend of the sheep feeder; timothy hay one of his worst enemies.

To study the swine industry of Wisconsin as a meat producing business is one of the aims of "Wisconsin Swine Week" to be held at Madison, February 5 to 8. At this meeting of breeders, feeders, drovers, and consumers, demonstrations will be given to show how pork can be produced at a profit by the use of forage crops, by new practices such as the use of the self-feeder and the hogging down of corn, and by preventing and controlling the common diseases which attack the swine herd.