

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK
IN
AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS

NORTH CAROLINA STATE COLLEGE OF
AGRICULTURE AND ENGINEERING
NORTH CAROLINA COUNTIES AND
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE, COOPERATING

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

ANIMAL INDUSTRY DIVISION

March 15, 1926

Mr. I. O. Schaub
Director of Agricultural Extension Service
Room 2, Rick's Hall

Dear Sir:

In compliance with your request that the economic importance of Swine Extension work in North Carolina be explained in a concise manner, the following result of a dutiful attempt to do so is respectfully submitted.

I am moved to an expression of gratification that the value of this work is to be measured from an economic rather than an aesthetic standpoint, (no lowering kind of stuff or anything of the kind), however I might point out that it has an indirect aesthetic value in that had the advice issued by this office a year ago been followed, the additional \$10,000,000 received by the farmers of the State as a result, would, undoubtedly have been reflected by a material increase in the sale of lipsticks and powder puffs in the Rural districts--it may even be said that a conservative estimate of the resultant decrease in the average length of skirts in the country may be put at 12 inches--a consummation devoutly to be desired! So much for the aesthetic viewpoint--a dollar from any other source would smell as sweet--now for the economic importance of the work.

What you want, as I understand it, is pure unadulterated economics (not pure adulterated--the "unadulterated" makes it sound nearer 100 per cent). Inasmuch as no talk or paper on "The Economic Production of Pork Under Conditions Existing in North Carolina" would be considered worth listening to unless it outlined the "Wonderful Possibilities for Cheap Production through the Use of Soy Beans by the Fortunate Farmers of North Carolina", I start with them. Solid chunks of wisdom regarding their value as a hog feed have been hurled from the rostrum; it is the main topic of conversation on the streets; the farm Press teems with it--as witness: the last Reference Special of a leading farm paper, "Fattening hogs should gather from one-half to three-fourths of their feed from soy beans, peanuts, sweet potatoes, velvet beans, etc., the balance

of the ration being made up of corn or corn and cottonseed meal". Ain't education great? Reiteration, both vocal and printed, of the above should serve to refute the narrow-minded and unjust charge that some of the recommendations made by educators are theoretical and will not work out in actual practice.

For real 'cheap' production you raise an acre of soy beans at a cost of ----- \$16.94
 You supplement it with 499 # of concentrates @ \$2.80 2.98
Total cost of feed ----- \$26.92

During September you take three 150 pound shoats, worth, at the average September price (\$10.63) \$47.84. You simply turn 'em on the beans and feed the "one-fourth to one-half ration" of the supplement.

One hundred days later, in December, they will have harvested the beans and eaten the 499 pounds of supplement, also. They will have gained 267 pounds and be worth as "oily" hogs during December at the average price for that month (\$6.80) \$48.76; or to put it more clearly \$0.92 more than they were when they went into the field in September.

The total feed cost having been \$26.92, merely deducting the \$0.92 profit, leaves a balance of an even \$26.00 (loss) per acre from the popular method which produces 'cheaply' at a cost of \$10.08 per 100 pounds, pork which is worth \$6.80! The above might be referred to as economics in reverse, I dunno!

Only three things are necessary for one to become enthusiastic on the subject. They are: Absolute inattention to the results of many experiments (inability or indisposition to analyze them will do); an utter disregard of the average seasonal price trend of hogs and the effect of quality on price, and a job with a boss who doesn't think that this work is of sufficient importance to justify 'putting out' for a modern calculating machine.

N. B. The annual loss of 50,000 acres of soy bean hay is not included in the \$10,000,000 mentioned above.

THE ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE OF SWINE EXTENSION WORK
IN NORTH CAROLINA

Records kept by 16 County Agents during the fiscal year ending November 30, 1925 on 1096 head of hogs owned by 71 farmers and sold at an average price of \$13.055, show that after paying for all purchased feed these hogs returned \$2.14 per bushel for the 5,937 bushels of corn eaten by them during the 80 day average length of period covered by the demonstrations.

If the above corn was produced by the farmers who fed the hogs, at an average cost of \$0.75 per bushel, the profit over cost of production, though selling it as pork was \$8,217.63 as compared with a profit of \$296.88 from selling it as corn at \$0.80 per bushel--an increase of \$7,920.75 due to feeding it, properly supplemented, to hogs, and selling the hogs at the right time.

It was pointed out last year that should the farmers of the State hog down twenty-five per cent of the 1925 corn crop, turning in hogs weighing 120-125 pounds during late July and selling at approximately 200 pounds during September, their receipts from the crop would be \$10,000,000 more than would result from selling it at the market price, after going to the expense of harvesting it.

Conditions are similar this year, and the recent receipts and visible supply of hogs, and cold storage holdings of frozen and cured pork give assurance of a continuation of very remunerative prices for at least six months longer.

MARCH NEWS LETTER

RECEIPTS OF HOGS AT 64 MARKETS DURING TWO MONTHS,
COLD STORAGE HOLDING FEBRUARY 1;
VISIBLE SUPPLY OF HOGS AVAILABLE AND PARTIAL RESULTS OF
THE DECEMBER PIG SURVEY

RECEIPTS OF HOGS FOR TWO MONTHS AT 64 MARKETS
With comparisons

Receipts for	1925	1924	Decrease	
			Number	Per cent
December	4,379,974	6,604,106	2,224,132	33.7
Receipts for	1926	1925		
January	4,303,544	6,105,140	1,801,596	29.5
For both months	8,683,518	12,709,246	4,025,728	31.68

As a slight offset to the above indicated shortage of hogs, the re-shipment of stocker and feeder pigs has been much heavier than it was during the same two months a year ago, and for an average of the six preceding years, nevertheless, the "Agricultural Outlook" of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics says: "THE NUMBER OF HOGS IN AREAS OF COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION IS THE SMALLEST SINCE 1921, AND FOR THE ENTIRE COUNTRY THE SMALLEST IN MANY YEARS."

Of the results of the December Pig Survey, The same authority says:

"The number of sows bred or intended to be bred for farrowing in the spring of 1926 was reported as 11.9 per cent larger than the number actually farrowed in the spring of 1925 for the United States and 11.1 per cent larger for the Corn Belt. Since previous surveys have shown that the sows that actually farrowed in the spring have fallen from 8 to 10 per cent short of the number reported bred in the previous December, these figures do not indicate any marked tendency

to increase hog production next spring in spite of the comparatively high prices of hogs and the exceptionally favorable feeding ratio between hogs and corn."

SUMMARY OF FROZEN AND CURED PORK IN THE UNITED STATES
February 1, 1926 with comparisons

<u>Process</u>	<u>: 1926</u>	<u>: 1925</u>	<u>: 5Year Average</u>
<u>Frozen</u>	<u>: 97,063,000</u>	<u>: 199,642,000</u>	<u>: 141,329,000</u>
Dry Salt	: 60,675,000:	57,168,000:	
In Process	: 77,345,000:	78,957,000:	158,230,000
<u>Total Salt</u>	<u>: 138,020,000:</u>	<u>166,125,000:</u>	<u>158,230,000</u>
Pickled	: 107,352,000:	156,566,000:	
In Process	: 212,054,000:	286,459,000:	385,107,000
	: 319,406,000:	443,025,000:	385,107,000
<u>Total Pork</u>	<u>: 554,489,000:</u>	<u>808,792,000:</u>	<u>684,666,000</u>
<u>Decrease, Pork : Feb.1, 1926:</u>	<u>254,303,000:</u>	<u>130,177,000</u>	

Organized business is paying a great many thousands of dollars annually for information which concerns their business much less intimately than the above information concerns the business of farming.

The time is rapidly approaching when uninformed action on the farm will be unable to supply sufficient income to meet requirements; the inevitable result will be a predominating rural population of either a higher or lower order than the present. Prosperity or Peonage--Which?

The following comparative results from the two methods of handling an acre of corn will, I believe serve to show the economic value of the work.

RETURNS FROM AN ACRE OF CORN

YIELDING 35 BUSHELS

SOLD AT 80¢

CREDIT

Oct. 20, By 35 Bus. corn @ \$0.80.....\$28.00

DEBIT

To overhead, fertilizer and mule labor.....	\$14.00	
To 2½ days man labor producing.....	5.00	
To hauling, shucking and cribbing 35 bus. @ 12¢	4.20	23.20
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Profit per bushel 17¢, per acre.....	\$	4.89

RETURNS FROM AN ACRE OF CORN

YIELDING 35 BUSHELS

HOGGED DOWN

CREDIT

Sept. 22, By 500 pounds pork @ \$12.00.....\$60.00

DEBIT

To overhead, fertilizer and mule labor.....	\$14.00	
To 2½ days man labor producing corn.....	5.00	
To 170 pounds fish meal @ \$3.50.....	5.95	
To 1 day man labor filling feeder	2.00	26.95
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Profit per bushel \$1.18 per acre.....	\$	33.05

RETURNS PER DAY OF MAN LABOR \$11.44

DIFFERENCE IN FAVOR OF HOGGING \$28.25

7.

Another branch of service furnished by this office, the patronage of which is constantly increasing, is illustrated by the following copy of the answer to a letter received two days since.

N.C. STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND ENGINEERING
OFFICE OF SWINE EXTENSION

W.W. SEAY, IN CHARGE

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK
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March 16, 1926

Mr. J. I. Whitley
Oakhurst Farms
Williamston, N. C.

Dear Sir:

In accordance with expectations expressed in my letter yesterday, I received information last night by wire regarding feeder pigs, but these pigs, although offered in Eastern Tennessee, undoubtedly originated in Alabama and consequently could not be classed very high. Anyway, they are being placed with another party and I will continue trying to locate some for you.

The 1000 bushels of corn which you have is sufficient to carry 110 pigs averaging 35 pounds to an approximate average weight of 190 pounds in 19 weeks, providing they are full fed. As this is too many for one car and not enough for two, I would suggest buying 70 to 80 pigs, which with the 50 you have would, when finished, fill two cars.

The enclosed sheet is computed to use the 1000 bushels of corn you have, with a margin of safety amounting to 16 bushels.

I am sending copy of this letter and the enclosure to Mr. T. B. Brandon, County Agent in your County who should be able to give you some assistance in this work.

Very truly yours,

W.W. SHAY, IN CHARGE
OFFICE SWINE EXTENSION

WWS/RR

FEED TO CARRY 110-35 POUND PIGS FOR 19 WEEKS

Beginning March 15, 1926

Fish Meal.....5500)	Should produce an average
Shelled Corn..20350--424 bus.)	gain of 155 pounds on 110 pigs
Wheat Shorts.. 5500)	starting at 35 pounds average
Slop Mixture..31350)	weight, and gain 17,050 in 19
Corn.....31350--560 bus.)	weeks from date started.

Total.....72700-- 984 bus.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

As of July 26, 1926

CREDIT

By 110 hogs July 26, 20900 lbs. @ \$12.00.....\$2508.00

DEBIT

To 110 pigs March 15, av. 35 lbs. 3850 @ 14¢.....	\$539.00
To Fish meal 5500 lbs. @ \$3.50.....	192.50
To Wheat shorts 5500 lbs. @ \$2.25.....	123.75
To Corn 1000 bushels @ \$0.85.....	850.00
	<u>1705.25</u>

Returns above Feed Cost.....\$ 802.75

The above feeds should be mixed by periods according to mixtures given on back of Extension Circular 143, using the shelled corn exactly as though it were corn meal.

Feed the Slop Mixture in the form of a thick slop, and the ear corn separate and dry. If you will weigh the pigs and send us their weight, we will be glad to make out feeding schedules for five weeks' periods in advance.