

PLAN OF WORK FOR 1924

OFFICE OF SWINE EXTENSION

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THE ECONOMIC BACKGROUND

The price paid for high class pork by the Eastern markets averages as much as seventy five cents higher than the Chicago market, even date.

The cost of land and labor is lower in the Cotton Belt than in the Corn Belt; consequently it costs no more to plant, cultivate and harvest an acre of corn in North Carolina than it does to do the same thing in the Corn Belt, investment and labor considered.

It then becomes a question of yield per acre. On land of equal fertility corn can be produced at slightly less cost in North Carolina than it can in the Corn Belt.

Turned into pork and sold on an Eastern market the pork will, as stated, sell for seventy five cents more per hundred pounds than does a similar grade on the Chicago market same date.

There is a well defined average seasonal variation in the market price of hogs. This is due to the fact that owing to the severe winters in the Corn Belt approximately 75 per cent of the pigs raised there are of spring farrow with the result that the flow of hogs to market is comparatively light during the late summer and the price advances accordingly.

This seasonal price advance may be taken advantage of by the North Carolina farmer through having his pigs farrowed during the comparatively mild winter months and rushing them to an average weight of about 200 pounds for the usually attractive late August or early September market.

Here then is another price advantage enjoyed by the North Carolina farmer over the Corn Belt farmer, which over a period of twenty years has averaged about one ~~and~~ one fourth cents per pound.

This one and one fourth cents per pound may, as stated above, be added by the North Carolina farmer to the fairly constant three fourths cents higher price paid on the Eastern than on the western market, thus enabling him through the control of breeding dates and the practice of good methods of feeding to sell his hogs at from one and one half to two dollars per 100 pounds more than the bulk of Corn Belt hogs sell for.

THE PROBLEM

The problem is to make the facts as outlined above clear to the farmer to the end that he may govern his pork producing operations from the basis of Profit rather than cheapness of gains which is the present customary practice.

This problem is greatly complicated by the fixed opinion of the average farmer that profit is entirely controlled by cost of production, and failure to recognize the influence on profit of rate of gain and seasonal price trend.

METHOD OF ATTACK

Obviously, under the above conditions, any method through which it is hoped to put pork production in North Carolina on a paying basis must contemplate a nearly complete reversal of prevalent practices.

This includes breeding dates to a great extent and feeding practice almost 100 per cent.

Results must be convincing and constantly susceptible to proof.

THE FEEDING DEMONSTRATION

The feeding demonstration carefully conducted, accurate weights of animals and the feed consumed by them being kept, appears to thoroughly meet these requirements.

Such demonstrations, made to as great an extent as possible with animals of a suitable age and weight to arrive at the seasonal price crest as nearly as possible at the desirable and economical weight of 190-200 pounds, having been properly fed, both in variety and daily amount of feed for the best results, invariably show a satisfactory profit as compared with that of the Corn Belt hog.

Such demonstrations where properly conducted are soon followed by co-operatively owned car lot shipments, this proving their effectiveness.

Over 300 such demonstrations have been started during the last three years and we always have some running, and plan their continuation.

ADDITIONAL PLANS

In addition to the above plan of work we are conducting some work with breeding herds through:

Register Of Merit Records.

and with both pure bred and grades:

Ton Litter Contests.