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EC233 House your Pigs? Where Runts are Relics

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THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA
AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE EXTENSION SERVICE

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Extension Circular 233

House Your Pigs?

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Where Runts Are Relics

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
CO-OPERATING

The results reported for this bulletin by 589 Nebraska farmers, together with observations carefully made on more than 2000 other farms from which no signed reports are available, indicate very definitely that the "Nebraska Small Hog House Plan" of raising hogs is both practical and efficient under Nebraska conditions.

Here where clear weather predominates a combination of clean ground, moveable houses properly built, and plain feed (mostly home grown) will win for the average hog man.

HOUSE YOUR PIGS?

By M. B. POSSON AND O. O. WAGGENER

This circular contains a very brief story of what 589 Nebraska farmers have done to make the hog end of their farming business more profitable. No two of these farmers proceeded in exactly the same manner and few of them spent much money for extra equipment, but to a man they based their methods on the principles outlined in the McLean county plan of hog lot sanitation.

Reports from these 589 Nebraska farms were sent to the Extension Service of the Nebraska Agricultural College during the years 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926 and 1927 so success or failure can not be attributed to favorable or unfavorable seasons.

These reports include a total of 7057 brood sows from which 56,943 pigs were raised. These 589 farmers have tested hog lot sanitation for five years, just as thoroughly and with as many sows and pigs as could any 40 average Nebraska farmers in 15 years. The information thus obtained, is beyond doubt quite conclusive, and consequently of great value to any one wishing to raise better hogs at less expense.

What 466 Farmers Did — And How

Methods — Four hundred sixty-six of the hog men used small movable hog houses for farrowing, as well as for summer shelter. They farrowed the pigs from clean bodied sows; on ground that had been turned over and farmed since other pigs had been kept there; or on ground where no hogs had been for several years.

More than three fourths of these farmers farrowed their pigs in March. Eight out of ten hauled water to the clean fields. They raised an average of about 12 litters per farm. Three hundred and ninety four of the 466 farmers full fed the pigs, most of them using self feeders. Four hundred and twenty of them used young boars and 363 of them used young sows only. On all farms the pigs were kept away from old lots and sheds until they were past four months of age. The pigs on 420 of the farms were immunized against hog cholera. Legume pastures were used on 73 out of each 100 farms.

Results — The 466 farmers raised 78 of each 100 pigs that were farrowed. The average number of pigs raised per sow on all farms was 6.7. All pigs weighed an average of 175 pounds when six months old bringing the average litter weight to 1172 pounds. An average of less than one runt was raised per farm. Ninety-four out of each 100 farmers said their pig crops were "very uniform."

What of it? — The results obtained by these 466 farmers of Nebraska, point conclusively to a big farm leak which can be stopped. Nebraska requires over a million brood sows to raise her annual crop of about five million pigs. This same pig crop could be raised from seven hundred and fifty thousand sows if all farmers would adopt the plan as thoroughly proven by these 466 farmers. The feed required each year to nourish those extra 250,000 sows which are now required to produce a normal annual poundage of pork, would pay a lot of taxes and buy a lot of groceries. And the extra profit, from the good pigs that would be raised in place of the old hog lot runts would buy some more tax receipts and prunes.

Nebraska Blizzard Beaters O. K.

Among the 466 farmers whose reports were reviewed in the preceding paragraphs, 103 used one-sow Nebraska Blizzard Beater hog sheds exclusively. These 103 farmers kept an average of 12 sows, raised 7.1 pigs per sow and raised a total of only 16 unthrifty pigs on their 103 farms. One hundred of the 103, reported their pigs "very uniform" at market time.

Eighty-three of the original 466 farmers raised 8 pigs or more per sow. Sixty-two of the 83 used Nebraska Blizzard Beaters. (Extension Circular 230 contains plans for building Nebraska Blizzard Beater hog houses.)

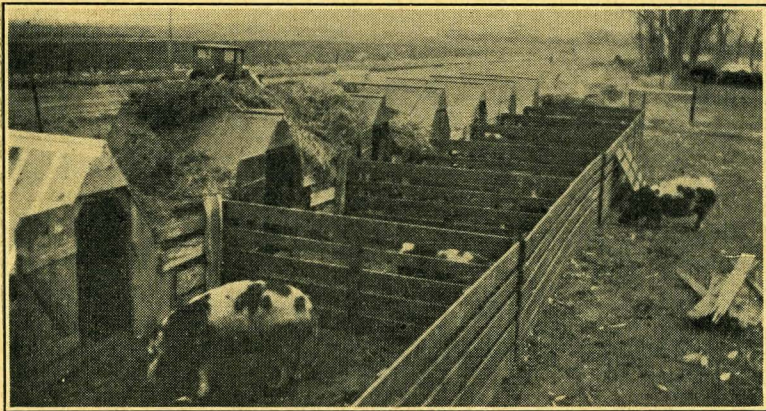
Dangers Lurk in Big Hog Sheds

In the previous paragraphs we have reported results from 466 farms where movable sheds only were used. The remainder of the 589 farmers, 123 in number, farrowed their sows in central hog sheds which were cleaned and scalded

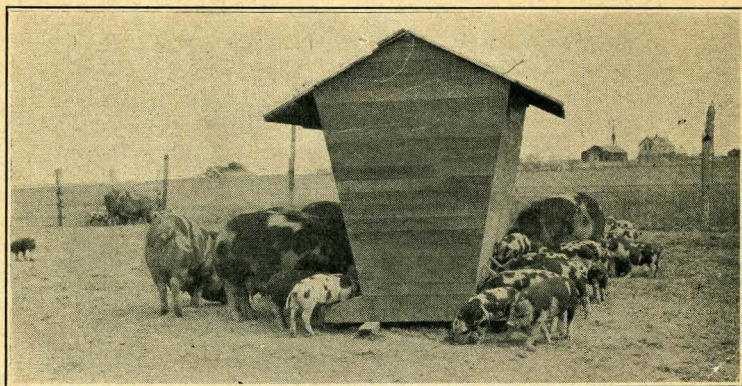
with boiling lye water. From these sheds both pigs and sows were hauled to safe fields when the pigs were only a few days old, avoiding contact with the hog lots. On these farms an average of approximately 12 sows were kept, from which average litters of only 6.2 pigs were raised. Many of these were unthrifty, there being more than 2 runts per farm. The average pig when six months old weighed 170 pounds making an average litter weight of only 1054 pounds even though 84 percent of them were full fed. Half of this group of farmers, reported pig troubles in the form of round worms or filth born diseases.

Summary

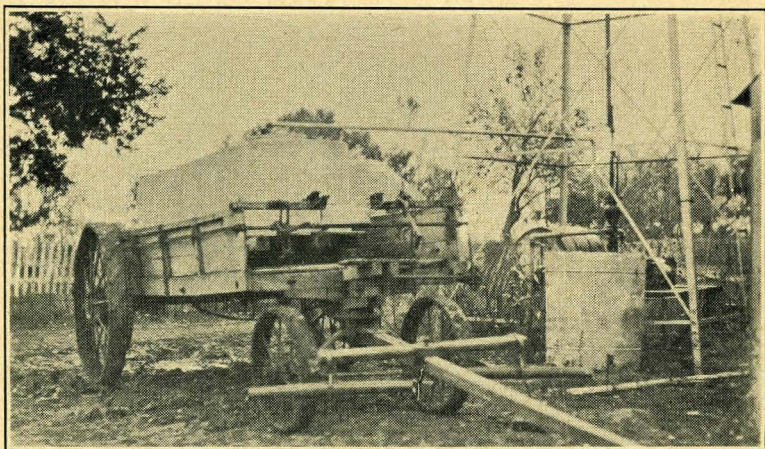
The results which the afore mentioned 589 farmers have reported, together with observations carefully made on more than 2000 other farms from which no signed reports are available, indicate very definitely that the "Nebraska Small Hog House Plan," or raising hogs, is both practical and efficient under Nebraska conditions. Here where clear weather predominates, a combination of clean ground, moveable houses properly built, and plain feed (mostly home grown) will win for the average hog man. These 589 farmers have proven that:



It Pays to be ready at farrowing time with a colony of good movable houses, cleaned, banked and bedded to receive the sows, whose bodies have been brushed clear of old hog lot dirt and whose udders have been washed.



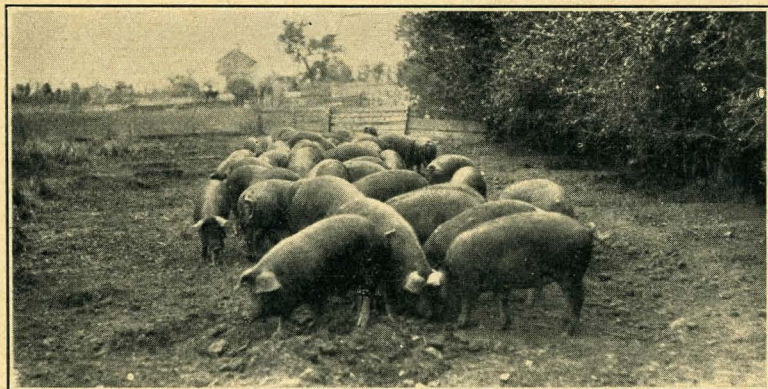
It Pays to full feed, both pigs and sows, a well balanced ration. Those who tried self-feeding sows and pigs together were well pleased with the results obtained.



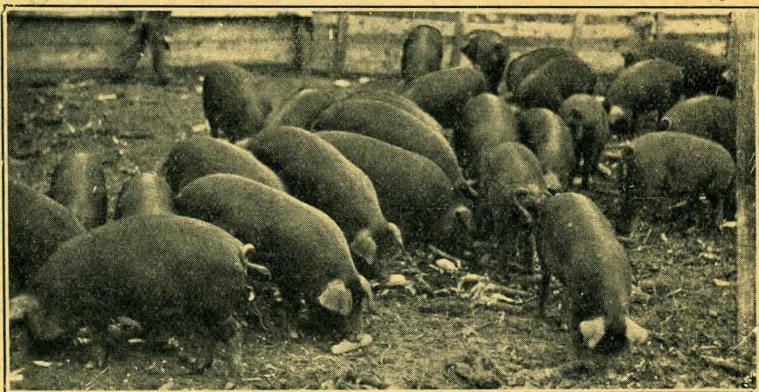
It Pays to haul water to clean fields. This chore was accomplished on the average farm in a total of only 2 hours per week. The larger the water wagon the less time was required.



It Pays to keep the pigs out on clean ground away from the sources of serious pig troubles until market time. A pig is never safe in an old hog lot.



It Pays to produce an even bunch of "200 pounders" in six months. They can be produced cheaply and the buyers like them.



It Pays to produce big healthy rugged gilts which can be graded closely in preparation for another pig crop. Unhealthy gilts look bad and they do badly at farrowing time.

Extension Circular 230 gives plans and directions for building and using Nebraska Blizzard Beaters.

The Nebraska Pig Crop Contest affords the opportunity for all good hog men to show each other new and better methods of raising profitable hogs.

Write the Agricultural College Lincoln, Nebraska, if you are interested in either the circular or the contest.

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