

RAISING AND FATTENING HOGS.

A Timely Article on this Subject by Senator B. R. Tillman.

(Farmers' Union Sun.)

The people of the South are the largest consumers of hog meat per capita in the world, while the people of northern climates eat more largely of beef and mutton than they do of pork and bacon. Climatic conditions here and the habits of living handed down to us from the semi-patriarchal days of slavery, have given us an appetite for hog flesh that is equaled nowhere else. It is nearly 25 years since I began to investigate and study closely the subject upon which I am to speak; and, while I have not been actively engaged in farming, except at intervals during the last 15 years, I have always managed to raise enough pork for my own use and very often have had a good deal to sell. I do not hesitate to say, therefore, that hog raising is not only practicable in a profitable way in South Carolina, but that, under intelligent management and with proper attention to crops adapted to them, we can produce bacon in South Carolina just as cheaply as it can be grown in any part of the United States; and the State, instead of being dependent upon the West for its supply of that necessary article, could easily and cheaply grow all the hogs it requires for home consumption, and could make money exporting hogs. To tell you how to do this will be my task this evening; and, while the subject can be gone into exhaustively, I shall cover the ground as best I may in the limited time I have.

The first cook book ever compiled was written by an Englishman named Kitchener, and his recipe for cooking a hare has been a standing joke among literary men for a century or more. His instructions began: "First, catch your hare," and then went on to give directions about the preparation and cooking. In hog raising, I will say to those who wish to engage in it; "First, catch your hog," that is, get a good, thrifty breed that will not require pampering, but will hustle for a living and take on fat readily. It is useless to start unless this injunction is to be faithfully obeyed. The difference between a well bred hog and a poorly bred one is the difference between success and failure. Here we have the choice between two policies to follow. Pure, thoroughbred hogs can be grown profitably and fitted for slaughter at an earlier age; but they require pushing from start to finish, and must never be allowed to get hungry or become stunted. If so, they never recover. I have found it more desirable under the ordinary treatment on the average plantation to have high bred grades. They are harder and will stand a little neglect better, are just as thrifty as the thoroughbreds, and will take on flesh just as readily under favorable circumstances. In either case, a thoroughbred male should be used, and the sows should be carefully selected. There is as much difference among brood sows as among milk cows, and it is only after the pigs have come and the milking qualities of the sow have been tested that we know whether she is a profitable breeder or not. One good indication which should be followed in selecting a sow pig for breeding is the number of teats. I have seen sows with only four teats and I have known others to have 18. Select the one with the largest number, certainly never less than 14; and, while this is only an indication, it is something like the eschecheon in a milk cow, a good pointer.

It is better for the pigs to come in early fall, say October, and in March and April rather than in the dead of winter or in the heat of summer, and the sow should not be bred too young, though size and development should govern in this case rather than age. The first litter never amounts to much anyway. The number of teats is no indication of the number of pigs that can best be supported by the brood sow. I think ten the maximum number to be allowed. The teats are only an indication of the milking qualities, and every good brood sow, like every good milk cow, turns her food into milk rather than flesh and grows poor under the strain. Of course, it is necessary to give the sow all she can eat of suitable food, because, if it were difficult to do to "Make bricks without straw," a sow certainly cannot make milk without plenty to eat. Just as soon as the pigs are old enough, certainly within a month after they come, they should be given extra food. This should be nitrogenous—soaked oats, rye or wheat bran and cow peas in the shape of meal, or whole corn in any shape, though not as desirable, is better than nothing. The pigs should be pushed along without pampering, but in the case of a thoroughbred this is more necessary than with the high grades. When a sow has shown herself to be a good

suckler and has not learned any bad habits, she becomes a very valuable piece of property, raising two crops of pigs a year and helping in a very substantial way to keep the smokehouse at home.

Here let me impress one other idea: "Before you catch your hog" build a pasture, because hogs shut up in a dry lot are usually unhealthy and always eat their heads off. If there are any more of them than enough to clean up the waste and eat the slops from the kitchen. Besides, hogs love to wallow in water. There is no way so easy to keep down lice and other vermin which infest the skin of hogs; and the opportunity to graze on weeds, lespedeza and other natural growths is essential for cheap production and also for health. Much of the hog cholera, which sometimes ravages the country and causes such destruction, is due to a lack of clean, pure water and no pasture. A very small piece of ground, if it is rich and sowed in Bermuda grass, will answer (Japan clover will come of itself); and these two will furnish grazing for a good number of hogs. One acre will easily supply all of that kind of food needed for from six to fifteen head, according to the fertility and character of the soil. The essential thing is some green food, as nearly all the time as practicable, and plenty of pure water. As a safeguard against worms, which are sometimes very troublesome, and as an antidote against diseases, I have always used a mixture of salt and hardwood ashes, equal parts; and this should be kept in reach of the hogs at all times. And give an occasional bait of ordinary charcoal with corn meal and the mixture in quantity enough to have them eat up the whole mess. This will insure all the hogs getting some of the salt and ashes, because, other wise, some of them will not take it. Of course, it is cheaper and better to have the pasture where there is a natural stream, but as there are large areas of the State which do not permit, the necessary water for wallowing hole and drinking must be supplied in whatever way is easiest in each case.

Now we will discuss the growth of crops adapted to South Carolina which will supply a succession of cheap food to give the hogs a thrifty and healthy growth and make them fat enough to butcher. And here will be the chief difficulty in the way of most farmers. Profitable hog raising always requires some fencing, not very much, but more than the average man is willing to construct. It will be understood, of course, that there will be a difference of treatment for brood sows and young growing hogs from that given to those which are being prepared for slaughter. I will begin with the first of January and follow the year through as to planting crops and consuming them on the land. Hogs must do their own gathering if we are to have cheap bacon. Hogs will save the crop and turn it into



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meat at the minimum expense; and the farmer can do no better, and he will find it profitable to have a few small lots under separate fences. The whole, or at least half, of the cultivated land can be put under a ring fence; then the hogs can be allowed to roam in that field at large from October to March. A barley lot on rich land sown in September or early October will furnish grazing, nutritious and healthful, from December on. Rye from Southern grown seed is also a valuable crop for this purpose. Two hours in such a lot daily will answer. The most expensive and trying time of the year in carrying the stock hogs is from February to June. It is the only time I find it necessary to feed some corn. In February the beets should be planted, using the three varieties—the common table beet, which comes on in a very little while; sugar beets, which will supply food later, and the mangel wurtzel, or stock beet. On deeply prepared, rich land an acre or two of these varieties will furnish an immense amount of hog feed, and we can begin to use the garden beets in May, while the others will be on hand to use whenever needed. In March the first sorghum should be planted. I think it best to have it in rows and chop it out so as to have a large, succulent stalk, but it can be sown broadcast and cut with a scythe blade. Hogs whose stomachs have been accustomed to corn while grazing on barley and rye will eat ravenously of the sorghum and soon as the sugar develops in July. I find it the one crop that is most profitable as a hog producer. It can be sown as late as the 10th of July and will mature before frost, and can be fed to the hog whole, stalk, top and all; keeps up a thrifty, healthy growth, gets the system in the best possible condition for fattening, and makes it possible to produce cheap pork. It is one of the main dependencies from July to November. In April speckled peas or some other early maturing variety should be planted in rows and cultivated. These will be ready for the hogs by the middle or last of July, and they should be turned on them (supposing a man has them in an enclosure separate from the balance of the crop), as soon as the first of the peas begin to ripen. Being very rich in nitrogen, they produce bone and muscle; in other words, they give growth and size, and supplemented with sorghum, there is as much fattening food in with it as is desirable. At the first plowing of corn, say the 20th of April or 1st of May, plant peanuts. The Spanish variety will mature the latter part of August; and, if hogs can be turned on them, they are very profitable. They can be plowed up, as the whole crop comes with the top, and hauled to the pasture the same as the sorghum is. But for cheap meat fattened at the least expense, the large running peanut which spreads on the ground, is my chief reliance. These can be grown in among the corn without, in the slightest degree, interfering with the crop or its cultivation. I plant two rows of corn in three and a half foot rows, then a row of peanuts. This gives one-third of the land to pindars, and the number of corn stalks can be regulated by the distance in the drill. I have grown corn in this manner which produced thirty bushels to the acre and 30 to 50 bushels of groundpeas and from four to ten bushels of cow peas, if the seasons suited. The land was broken broadcast and the corn planted in the usual way. When I began to work the corn, I ran a bull tongue furrow down the middle of the wide row, dropped the peanuts and threw four furrows on it with a turn plow. The balance of the space was worked out with shovels, and the narrow middle between the corn rows was similarly treated. As soon as the ground peas sprouted, the bed was dragged off with a heavy board, and all after cultivation was with a sweep, cow peas being sown broadcast when the corn was laid by. Planting of the groundpeas was thus a part of the cultivation of the corn, and the corn crop is in no way reduced by them. Of course, they could be planted in a separate patch, but I see no sense in it. The groundpeas and the cow peas, after I have saved all the seed I want, will be gathered by the hogs themselves. "Cuffy" charges 30 cents a bushel to pick peas. Mr. Hog charges nothing. But these two feeds, cow peas and pindars, are entirely too rich in nitrogen for the best results; therefore, the sweet potatoes come in, because they are starch producers and supply the missing elements in the food. Any good ordinary land, properly broken and fertilized—not forgetting to use abundance of potash—will produce anywhere from 100 to 300 bushels of potatoes. Some men claim 500 bushels, but I want to be reasonable.

Chemists tell us, and feeding experiments have demonstrated, that one bushel of sweet potatoes is equal to a half bushel of corn. Let us make it a peck for a certainty; then an acre of potatoes yielding 100 bushels is equal to 25 bushels of

corn. Anyway, potatoes are so easily and cheaply grown and are practically so certain a crop that they should constitute one of the chief ingredients in a hog's rations for fattening. When the potatoes and ground peas and cow peas can be grown under the same fence we have an ideal arrangement for cheap production of hog meat and it ought to be very easy for any farmer to arrange his rotation so that these crops can be utilized by the hogs as soon as the corn is gathered and the ground peas matured, say about the time of the first killing frost. The amount of cheap pork that can be produced on a two-horse farm where the plans I have indicated are carried out in the way I have suggested, would be astonishing. After the fattening hogs have gotten all they want or require, then we can turn in the stock hogs to glean the field; but, if there is an abundance, we need not wait, but can let the stock hogs and the brood sows and pigs run in the same field. They will not interfere with the cotton that has not been picked. The one possible interruption will be that of sowing the grain, oats and wheat. But even this difficulty is more imaginary than real. I have never tried it, but Northern hog raisers ring the noses of their pigs to prevent them from rooting, and I do not see why we could not do the same thing. If given plenty of salt, hogs do not root much. Of course, tramping over and grazing on winter grain is not desirable, but it will not hurt except in very clayey land, if the rooting is prevented. Raised after this system, the hogs will be ready to slaughter after the middle of November, and economy in the use of offal makes three killings desirable. They need not have any corn, the most expensive hog feed we can grow, except for ten days before they are killed, and the cost is very small compared with the corn-fed hog. It will take all winter for the stock hogs to glean and clean out the cow peas and ground peas; and during January, February and March they should be fed sweet potatoes that have been banked, with a very little corn. Of course, when corn planting begins, the hogs must go to a regular pasture and must then graze on rye and barley lots; and these lots should be planted in speckled peas, sorghum, potatoes, or corn to cut green so as to get in the barley and rye early. Two crops will then be grown on the lots annually, thus necessitating heavy manuring.

Now a word as to curing. We have hams at our house that are going on three years old that are perfectly sound and sweet, so sweet and nutty that they are far more delicious to my taste than the Smithfield or any other ham that you can buy in the market. The hogs have been killed and cleaned—after a rain, not before, because it might turn warm and it is better to have ice on the water than not—cut up after they are cold enough to be somewhat stiff, because a neater job can be made of it; sprinkle well with good common salt; spread out, without the meat being more than one layer deep, to cool and drive off the animal heat and draw out the water that is in the meat. Salt down the next day, covering up everything and filling in around the pieces, and leave for from three to five weeks, according to the size of the meat and the coldness of the weather. Use saltpeper if you want a red color to the hams, but I prefer it without. Don't disturb it, no matter how warm it may be; and, if you have used enough salt, there will be no danger of its puffing at the joints and becoming tainted. Hang up after washing all the salt off with warm water and let it be smoked from a fire of corncobs or hickory

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President Sends Congress Special Message Urging Fortification.

Washington, Jan. 12.—President Taft to-day sent to Congress a special message urging the fortification of the Panama Canal and recommending that an appropriation of \$5,000,000 for initiation of the work on the proposed defenses be made out at the present session of Congress. He forwarded with the message the report of the special army and navy board, recommending fortification of the canal.

"The canal, when completed," said the President in his message, "will afford the only convenient route for water communication between Atlantic and Pacific coast ports, and virtually will be a part of the coast line of the United States. Its assured possession and control will contribute to our peace, safety and prosperity as a nation.

"In my judgment it is the right and the duty of the United States to fortify and make capable of defense the work that will bear so vital a relation to its welfare, and that is being created solely by it and at an expenditure of enormous sums."

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Denied Cigarettes, Man Died.

New York, Jan. 12.—John Michaels, a young cooper, is dead in a Brooklyn hospital because he was suddenly deprived of cigarettes for two days, after he had been addicted to their constant use for 15 years.

Michaels was arrested on a charge of stealing jewelry. Before he was sent to jail he asked his friends to keep him supplied with cigarettes, but they were unable to do so. He had been in the habit of smoking 80 a day, he said. He was in jail only two days when he was taken very ill and was sent to the hospital. His death followed shortly afterwards.

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Time Table No. 11.—Effective November 27, 1910.

EASTBOUND—		12	10	18	20	8
Lv Walhalla	7:00	3:20	11:22	9:10	3:00	10:30
Lv West Union	7:05	3:25	11:27	9:15	3:05	10:35
Lv Seneca	7:10	3:30	11:32	9:20	3:10	10:40
Lv Jordan Junction	7:15	3:35	11:37	9:25	3:15	10:45
Lv Adams	7:20	3:40	11:42	9:30	3:20	10:50
Lv Cherry	7:25	3:45	11:47	9:35	3:25	10:55
Lv Pendleton	7:30	3:50	11:52	9:40	3:30	11:00
Lv Auston	7:35	3:55	11:57	9:45	3:35	11:05
Lv Sand Springs	7:40	4:00	12:02	9:50	3:40	11:10
Lv Denver	7:45	4:05	12:07	9:55	3:45	11:15
Lv West Anderson	7:50	4:10	12:12	10:00	3:50	11:20
Lv Anderson—Pass Dop	8:01	4:21	12:23	10:11	3:50	11:31
Lv Anderson—Frd Dop	8:07	4:27	12:29	10:17	3:56	11:37
Ar Belton	8:34	4:54	12:56	10:44	3:50	11:50
WESTBOUND—		11	9	17	19	7
Lv Belton	8:35	4:55	12:57	10:45	3:51	11:51
Lv Anderson—Frd Dop	8:46	5:06	1:08	10:56	4:02	12:02
Lv Anderson—Pass Dop	8:52	5:12	1:14	11:02	4:08	12:08
Lv West Anderson	9:03	5:23	1:25	11:13	4:19	12:19
Lv Denver	9:09	5:29	1:31	11:19	4:25	12:25
Lv Sand Springs	9:15	5:35	1:37	11:25	4:31	12:31
Lv Auston	9:21	5:41	1:43	11:31	4:37	12:37
Lv Pendleton	9:27	5:47	1:49	11:37	4:43	12:43
Lv Cherry	9:33	5:53	1:55	11:43	4:49	12:49
Lv Adams	9:39	5:59	2:01	11:49	4:55	12:55
Lv Jordan Junction	9:45	6:05	2:07	11:55	5:01	13:01
Lv Seneca	9:51	6:11	2:13	12:01	5:07	13:07
Lv West Union	9:57	6:17	2:19	12:07	5:13	13:13
Ar Walhalla	10:03	6:23	2:25	12:13	5:19	13:19

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