

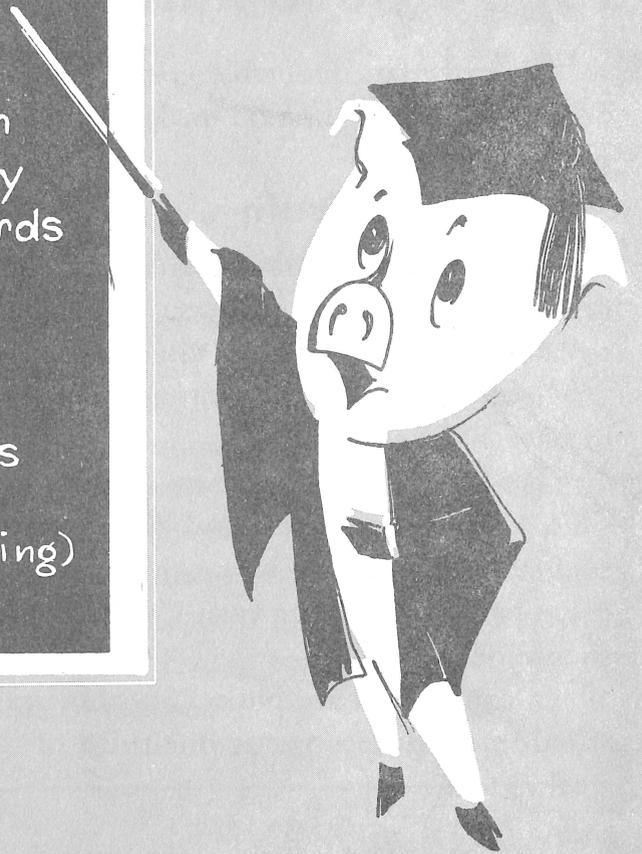
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*Your*

# MARKET PIG

*project*

Select Good Pigs  
Feed Balanced Ration  
Full Feed All The Way  
Keep Accurate Records  
Keep Pigs Healthy  
Fit For Shows  
Exhibit at Shows  
Judge Market Hogs  
Marketing  
(Buying + Selling)



Want to learn about raising market hogs but don't have room for a sow and litter or can't afford a sow? If so, this Market Pig Project is the one for you! It is really packed with good pointers on feeding, managing, controlling diseases and selling market hogs.

This Market Pig Project is similar to Baby Beef but requires a shorter feeding period. The shorter feeding period lets you feed out more than one bunch of pigs a year.

Pay special attention to these points. They will help you make more profit.

# Good Pigs Pay Off . . .

Buy meat-type pigs. Meat-type pigs are long-sided, trim and heavily muscled. They are deep and thick in their hams, long and level in the rump, short and straight in the pasterns and well balanced.

Try not to buy pigs with these common defects that make poor quality market hogs: Lard type, short sides, light hams, weak

backs, heavy jowls and weak pasterns.

Judging skill is an important tool in selecting pigs for your project. If you haven't done much judging, you will find the judging section of this circular especially helpful.

Be sure to read the marketing section of this circular before buying your pigs, too.

...

## Feed a Good Ration. . .

To make fast, profitable gains, your pigs need a well-balanced ration made up of grain and supplement.

### Grain

Grain supplies carbohydrates. Carbohydrates make your pigs gain weight. Grain also has some minerals and vitamins which your pigs need to develop strong bones and to have good appetites.

Feed as much home-grown grain as possible. Corn is most often used. Other grains, such as wheat, barley or sorghum may replace part or all of the corn. These grains should be ground.

Ground oats are bulky. So, this grain should not make up over one-third of the total ration.

### Supplements

The supplement supplies additional protein, vitamins, minerals and an antibiotic. Your pigs need these to make the most profitable gains and stay healthy.

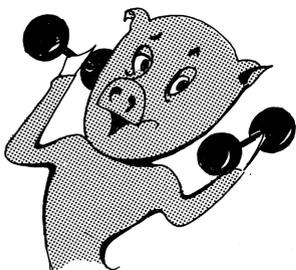
Supplements may be home or commercially mixed. Try your hand at home mixed supplements for the experience. You may save some money by mixing your own, too!

If not included in the ration, keep a mineral mixture before your pigs at all times. By weight, this mixture is one part salt, two parts limestone and one part steamed bonemeal.

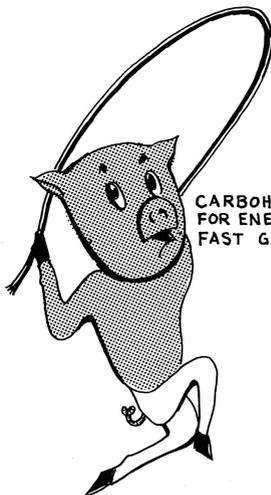
Keep clean, fresh water before your pigs all the time.

### PIGS USE

PROTEIN FOR BODY AND MUSCLE DEVELOPMENT.



CARBOHYDRATES FOR ENERGY AND FAST GAINS.



VITAMINS FOR GOOD APPETITES.



ANTIBIOTICS TO FIGHT OFF DISEASES.

MINERALS FOR STRONG BONES AND GOOD TEETH.



## Good Supplement Mixtures For Growing And Fattening Pigs:

SUPPLEMENT (A)	
Soybean oil meal	48 pounds
Tankage or meat scraps	25 pounds
Alfalfa meal	25 pounds
Salt	2 pounds
Antibiotic—2.5 grams per 100 pounds of mixture	

SUPPLEMENT (B)	
Soybean oil meal	64 pounds
Tankage or meat scraps	32 pounds
Salt	2 pounds
Bonemeal	2 pounds
Antibiotic—2.5 grams per 100 pounds of mixture	
Vitamins	

SUPPLEMENT (C)	
Soybean oil meal	49 pounds
Tankage or meat scraps	49 pounds
Salt	2 pounds
Antibiotic—2.5 grams per 100 pounds of mixture	
Vitamins	

SUPPLEMENT (D)	
Soybean oil meal	90 pounds
Salt	2 pounds
Limestone	4 pounds
Bonemeal	4 pounds
Antibiotic—2.5 grams per 100 pounds of mixture	
Vitamins	

The best antibiotics to use in the supplement mixture you choose are aureomycin or terramycin.

Amounts of vitamins to add to each 100 pounds of supplement (B), (C), or (D) for dry lot feeding are as follows:

Vitamin A . . . 60,000 International Units  
 Riboflavin . . . . . 600 milligrams  
 Pantothenic acid . . . . . 2700 milligrams  
 Nicotinic acid . . . . . 3000 milligrams

If your pigs can not get out in the sun, add vitamin D to supplements (B), (C), and (D), also.

Alfalfa meal replaces commercial vitamins in supplement (A). You do not need to add vitamins to any of these supplements if your pigs are on good pasture.

### Feeding Supplements

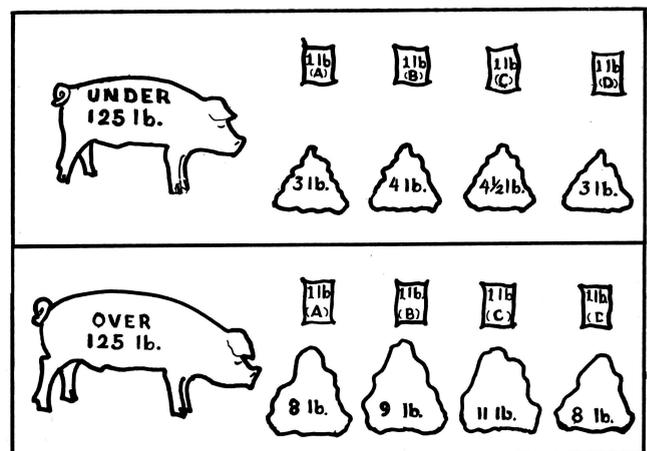
Feed one-half to three-fourths pound of one of the above supplements per pig per day throughout the feeding period.

There are three ways to feed supple-

ments: (1) Mixed with ground grain. (2) Each ingredient fed free choice. (3) Hand fed.

Pigs weighing less than 125 pounds need more protein than older pigs. So, you must feed young pigs more supplement in relation to the grain.

The following table shows how much ground shelled corn to mix with one pound of each of the supplements to make a well-balanced ration:

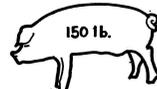


## Full Feed All The Way . . .

Start your pigs on half full feed for the first three or four days, until they become accustomed to the feed and their new home.

After the starting period, give your pigs all they will eat.

The following table shows how much grain and supplement to feed your pigs each day:

## Keep Accurate Records . . .

Since feed makes up almost 80 percent of the cost of raising pigs, it is important to keep a record of all feed used.

Weigh your pigs at the beginning of the project and again at the end to find out the amount of gain. Then, by dividing the total feed eaten by the total gain, you can figure the pounds of feed it took to make a

pound of gain. And, by dividing the pounds of gain by the number of days, you can figure the average daily gain.

Your pigs should gain 100 pounds on 325 to 350 pounds of feed. And, they should make an average daily gain of one and one-half to one and three-fourths pounds.

## Keep Your Pigs Healthy . . .

### Vaccination

Cholera is the most deadly of all hog diseases. All pigs should be vaccinated before they are weaned. So, buy vaccinated pigs if possible. If the pigs you buy are not vaccinated, get the job done as soon as you can.

It is recommended that you use modified hog cholera live virus, plus hog cholera anti-serum. These materials come separately. So, you make two injections in each pig.

Unless you have had some experience, get a veterinarian to do the job.

For biggest profits, remember these good feeding practices:

- Full feed all the way.
- Feed a balanced ration.
- Feed as much home-grown grain as possible.
- Mix your own protein and mineral supplements.
- Provide good pasture whenever possible.
- Keep pigs from wasting feed.
- When hogs reach 200 to 225 pounds, sell immediately. Otherwise, you will be using feed to put on over-finish which will lower the price you receive.

## **Roundworms**

The life cycle of the roundworm starts when the pig takes worm eggs into its digestive system through the mouth. So, your best roundworm control is to keep pigs on ground where there are no worm eggs.

Pigs may be wormy when purchased. It is a good practice to worm your pigs before putting them on pasture.

Piperazine compounds are good to use as a wormer. These compounds may be fed in the feed or added to the drinking water. Follow the manufacturer's direction for using them.

See your county agent for the latest information on roundworm control. As new products are tested, controls change.

## **Lice and Mange**

Examine your pigs for lice frequently. Lice first appear on the neck, behind the ears, over the shoulder and under the fore and hind flanks.

Signs of mange mites usually are first noticed around the eyes, nose, ears and hocks. The mites are so small you can't see them without a microscope. However, you

will know of their presence because a pig's skin becomes thick, rough and scaly in the infected area.

One-tenth percent solution of lindane or gamma BHC as a spray or dip is a good treatment for both lice and mange. Be sure the solution gets on all parts of the pig. When lindane is thoroughly applied, one treatment kills most infestations. If your pigs are heavily infested with mange mites, a second treatment in seven to ten days may be necessary.

## **Control Flies**

Good sanitation helps control flies because it destroys their breeding places.

Use baits or residual sprays to kill adult flies. Residual sprays are those that stick on for several days. Baits are commercially prepared materials that contain small percentages of residual sprays.

Apply the spray to walls, ceilings and other places where flies roost. Spread small quantities of bait in places around the pen where flies gather; however, do not put bait where your pigs or other livestock can get to it.

# **Good Management Is Profitable . . .**

## **Castration**

Buy castrated pigs if you can, especially since you probably will be getting weaned pigs.

If boar pigs are purchased, castrate them as soon as possible. However, castration and vaccination should not be done at the same time. Since you must vaccinate immediately after buying, delay castration about two weeks.

## **Handle Carefully**

Bruises and scars lower the market value of hogs. So, handle your hogs carefully at all times. When moving them from one place to another, use a harmless persuader.

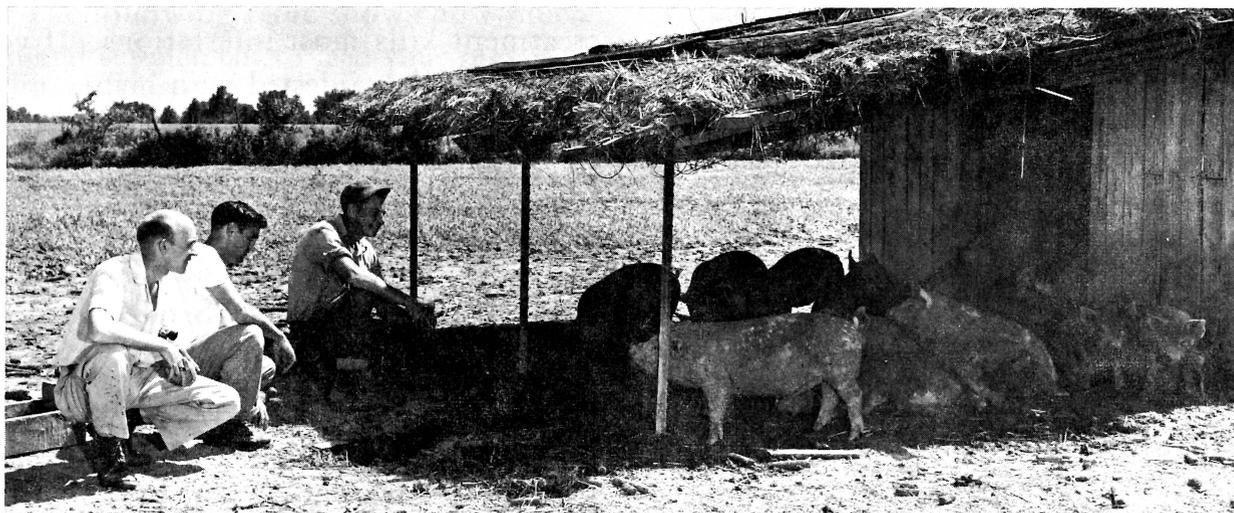
A flapper is one of the best persuaders. You can make one by tacking or riveting canvass or other heavy duck material to a wooden handle.

When showing pigs, a short, light whip

is helpful. Use the whip when training your pig for showing so he will know what it means. Remember, time spent training your pig to show to his best advantage helps win ribbons.

## Summer Shade

Comfortable pigs make fast gains and



Inexpensive summer shade.

## Fitting For Show . . .

### Trimming The Toes

The way a pig's legs and feet are placed is inherited. Though there is no way to straighten a pig's crooked legs, you can improve their appearance by trimming his feet.

First, study the position of the feet and legs as the pig stands and walks on a flat surface. When a pig carries his weight unevenly, the hoof will grow longer on one side.

Correct this by clipping off parts of the hoof that extend past the sole of the foot. Level the bottom of the hoof with a rasp. At the same time, use the rasp to smooth the hoof edge.

Use sandpaper to make a smooth surface on your pig's hooves. Shine them with an oiled cloth.

good use of the feed they eat. If there is no natural shade in the pasture, it will pay you to build an artificial cover for your pigs.

## Winter Shelter

A dry shed, open on the south and free from drafts, makes a good winter shelter for your market hogs.

Trim your pig's toes throughout the growing period. Make the last trimming at least two weeks before the show. If done at a later date, your pig may have sore feet at show time.

### Washing

Scrub your pig with soap and water two weeks before the show. Use a stiff brush to loosen the scurf (small scales of dead skin) so later washings will really put on a shine. After washing, bed down your pig on clean straw.

### Trimming Hair

Give your pig's ears a hair cut. Clip his tail except for a few hairs at the tip to make it look bushy!

## Oiling

Apply oil sparingly with a soft cloth. Over-oiling will make your pig look greasy.

One pint of paraffin oil and four ounces of alcohol make a good mixture for oiling pigs. Cottonseed oil can replace paraffin oil in this mixture.

## Showing

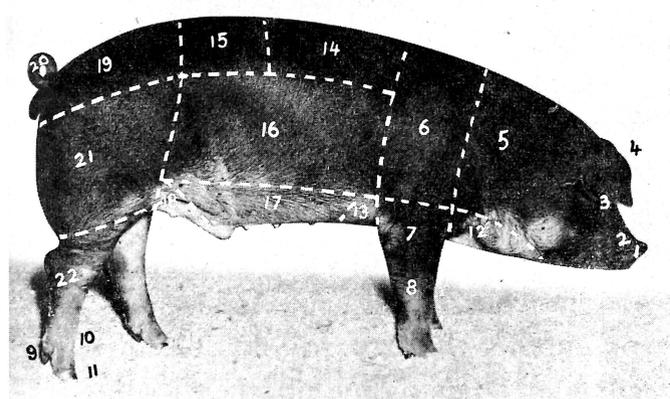
On show day, you will see that time spent in training your pig before the show pays off. He will be easy to keep out in front of the judge.

## Judging Market Hogs . . .

In order to select good project animals, you need to be a good judge. Any person's judgement of market hogs can be improved with practice, supervised by someone who is a good judge. Judging is a skill that becomes sharper with lots of use. So, every time you look at a bunch of pigs try to place them like a judge does a show class.

The score card will help you become a good judge. It tells you how much value to give certain parts of the hog in comparison to other parts.

Learn the parts of the hog so you can discuss the class without confusion.



The Parts of a Hog

1—snout. 2—face. 3—eye. 4—ear. 5—neck. 6—shoulder. 7—fore-leg. 8—knee. 9—dew claw. 10—pastern. 11—toes. 12—jowl. 13—fore flank. 14—back. 15—loin. 16—side. 17—belly. 18—rear flank. 19—rump. 20—tail. 21—ham. 22—hock.

## Show Ring Pointers

(1) Keep your pig out of corners, away from the others as much as possible, but within a reasonable distance of the judge!

(2) Keeping your pig's head down will make his back look stronger!

(3) Have patience and good humor in the show ring! By expecting pigs to jostle one another or maybe fight, you won't be so irritated when they do. If your pig shows special dislike for a certain pig in the ring, cooperate with the pig's owner in keeping them well apart.

## Score Card for Meat-Type Hogs (Market Barrows)

Scale of Points	Possible Score	Member's Score			
		A	B	C	D
<b>MODERN MEAT TYPE . . . 40</b>					
Moderately long, smooth, straight sides . . . . .	12				
Long, moderately level rump . . . . .	4				
Evenly arched back (ears to tailhead) . . . . .	3				
Straight, trim, firm underline and jowl, free of coarseness . . . . .	5				
Wide spaced, straight, sound legs . . . . .	3				
Stylish, symmetrical, tight framed and smoothness . . . . .	8				
Correct market weight (usually 180-220 pounds) . . . . .	5				
<b>MUSCLING OR MEATINESS . 40</b>					
Thick, plump, firm hams with wide spaced hind legs (Should be widest point of the body) . . . . .	15				
Moderately wide, uniform loin that rounds nicely into ribs . . . . .	15				
Plump, heavy muscled shoulder, firm at the elbows . . . . .	10				
(Give long, narrow, light muscled "meatless wonders" a low score)					
<b>CORRECT FINISH . . . . . 20</b>					
Average backfat 1.3 to 1.6 inches (Give low score for more backfat than this) . . . . .	20				
Look for these good points . . little or no counterswing of tailhead in fat . . . trim, firm jowl, underline and base of hams.					
(Give thin, underfinished hogs a low score).					
<b>TOTAL . . . . .</b>	<b>100</b>				

## Judging By Comparison

Try out for a judging team. This is good training. It improves your powers of observation, requires decisions and calls for logical reasoning.

You need to have an ideal hog pictured in your mind. This ideal, of course, has a perfect score. Then, compare each hog you are judging with your ideal and give it the number of points for each part you think it deserves. After comparing each hog in the class to your ideal and getting a general idea of each one's score value, compare the hogs to each other and place them.

One good rule in judging a class is to stand back 20 to 30 feet from the class. From this distance you can compare hogs in the class to your ideal and to each other much better.

## Giving Reasons

It is important to be able to tell why you placed a class of hogs the way you did. Your project leader has *4-H Circular 142*,

that has a section on "How to Give Reasons." Borrow this circular and read the section.

In giving reasons on a class of four animals, you make three comparisons. In the first comparison, tell why you placed the hog you consider best over the second place hog. Then, compare the second place hog to the one you placed third. Your last comparison is between the third and fourth place hogs.

You only have two minutes to give reasons in most judging contests. So, base your comparisons on the most important points and omit the small details.

Use specific terms, such as "more natural muscling," "more plumpness and bulge to the ham," "smoother in the sides and shoulders," to describe the class. Never use general terms, like "this hog is better than that one."

Remember that an accurate, well-delivered set of reasons will give you a good score on reasons regardless of how far you missed the correct placing of the class.

• • •

## Marketing . . .

Marketing is a lot more than just selling finished hogs. Even before starting your Market Pig Project, it is important!

Your first marketing venture starts when you buy project pigs. The type you select and the price you pay for project pigs will affect the profits you make.

Feeding grain and supplement to pigs is a way of marketing feed. Feed makes up about 80 percent of the production cost. So,

your big chance for profit is the use of good feeding practices.

Remember, also, that you are marketing labor, pasture and good management practices through your project. Wise use of each gives you a chance for profit.

Near the end of the project, your decision on when to sell your market hogs gives you another chance for profit. This decision calls for a study of hog prices.

## What Can You Pay For Project Pigs?

The price you can afford to pay for feeder pigs depends on the value of finished hogs, cost of raising them and expected death loss. Before you buy pigs for your project, follow the example below to figure out what you can afford to pay for them!

### Figuring Estimated Market Value:

Determine the market value of your hogs by estimating the price and their weight at the time you will sell them.

For example, you intend to buy 35-pound feeder pigs in April to sell in August. By August, your pigs should weigh 215 pounds. You find the market forecast for August is \$17.00 per hundredweight. Then, the estimated market value is \$36.55 per pig.

$$\text{EST. PRICE} = \$17.00/\text{CWT}$$

$$\text{EST. WEIGHT} = 215 \text{ lb.}$$

$$215/100 \times \$17.00 = \$36.55$$

$$\text{EST. MARKET VALUE} = \$36.55$$

### Figuring Costs:

Feed is your big production cost item. The average farmer uses 325 pounds of corn and 50 pounds of protein supplement to add 100 pounds of weight. This makes a total of 585 pounds or 10½ bushels of corn and 90 pounds of supplement to increase your 35-pound pigs to 215 pounds.

So, figuring corn at \$1.25 a bushel and supplement at \$5.00 a hundred, your total feed cost per pig is \$17.65.

Other production costs such as labor, shelter, equipment, interest and veterinary costs usually amount to one-fifth of the feed cost per pig. One-fifth of \$17.65 is \$3.53.

Total production cost per pig is the sum of the feed cost and other production costs, or \$21.18 in this example.

$$10\frac{1}{2} \text{ bu.} \times \$1.25 = \$13.15$$

$$90/100 \times \$5.00 = \$4.50$$

$$\text{TOTAL FEED COST} = \$17.65$$

$$1/5 \times \$17.65 = \$3.53$$

$$\text{OTHER PROD. COSTS} = \$3.53$$

$$\$17.65 + \$3.53 = \$21.18$$

$$\text{TOTAL PROD. COST} = \$21.18$$

$$\$36.55 - \$21.18 = \$15.37$$

$$\text{MARGIN OVER COST} = \$15.37$$

### Figuring Margin Over Cost:

Find your margin over cost by subtracting total production cost from the estimated market value per pig. In this case, the difference between \$36.55 and \$21.18 is \$15.37.

### Figuring Death Loss:

Suppose you expect a death rate of five percent, or a survival rate of 95 percent. Multiply the margin per pig by the survival rate. The result is \$14.60.

In this example, the top price you can afford to pay for a 35-pound feeder pig is \$14.60!

$$15.37 \times 0.95 = \$14.60$$

$$\text{TOP PRICE} = \$14.60$$

Figures used in the above example are averages. When figuring the top price you can afford, use your own production cost figures, survival rate and market forecast. If you don't have some of these figures, use the averages instead of guessing.

If you pay less than the top price for your pigs, the difference will be profit. Or,

you can figure this profit as better than average wages for your labor or more than market price for home-raised grain.

And, if you pay more than the top price, you will get less than average wages for your labor and less than market price for your home-raised grain.

## Seasonal Trends in Hog Prices

Hog prices usually start rising in late spring and reach a peak in late summer. Then, they go down steadily for about three months. So, hog prices are lowest in late fall and early winter most years.

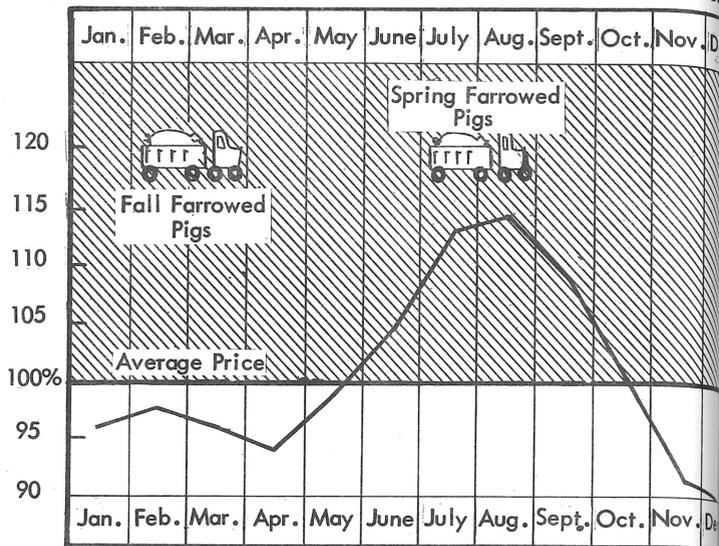
Light weight hog prices begin their seasonal changes a little earlier than heavier hog prices.

The months of highest market prices for spring farrowed pigs usually are July and August. Fall farrowed pigs usually sell highest in February and March.

You can use these trends to make your project bring the most profit! The trick is to buy fall farrowed pigs that you can market in February and March and spring farrowed pigs that will be ready for market in July and August.

Making a good price forecast from your market information will help you pick the best weeks in these periods to take your hogs to market!

SEASONAL TRENDS IN 200-225 LB. MARKET HOG PRICE



## Developing Skill in Estimating Prices

Seasonal trends are a good starting point in forecasting hog prices. However, these trends are seldom exactly the same each year. So, you need to use other up-to-date market information to forecast hog prices for a certain time, too.

Here are some things your project group can do to develop skill in estimating prices and using market information:

- (1) Record daily prices from market reports and newspapers. Make a graph of this information.
- (2) Subscribe to market outlook publications, such as "The Farm Outlook" put out by the University of Missouri.
- (3) Get United States Department of Agriculture publications for study. Examples of these are: "The Livestock and Meat Situation" and "The Demand and Price Situation."

After organizing this marketing information and studying the outlook publications, your project group might like to make hog price forecasts at each project meeting. Make these price forecasts for the week of your next project meeting so everyone can discuss the outcome.

HOG FACT CALENDAR

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.
Peak of Spring Farrowing			Peak of Fall Farrowing									
Lowest Spring Prices			Highest Prices for 200- to 220-Pound Hogs			Lowest Fall Prices						
Peak Marketing of Fall Pigs						Peak Marketing of Spring Pigs						
40% of Year's Pig Crop is Marketed					60% of Year's Pig Crop is Marketed							

## Learning To Recognize A Meat-Type Hog

Lots of *natural muscling* is one big feature of the meat-type hog. Compared with the lard type, more of his live weight goes into those lean pork cuts that consumers are demanding these days. Less of the meat-type hog's live weight goes into lard and fat pork.

Greater length is another big feature of the meat-type hog. Greater length means more of those high-priced loin cuts.

In addition to natural muscling and greater length, the meat-type hog has plump, well-rounded hams, trim belly and jowls, and is firm to the touch.

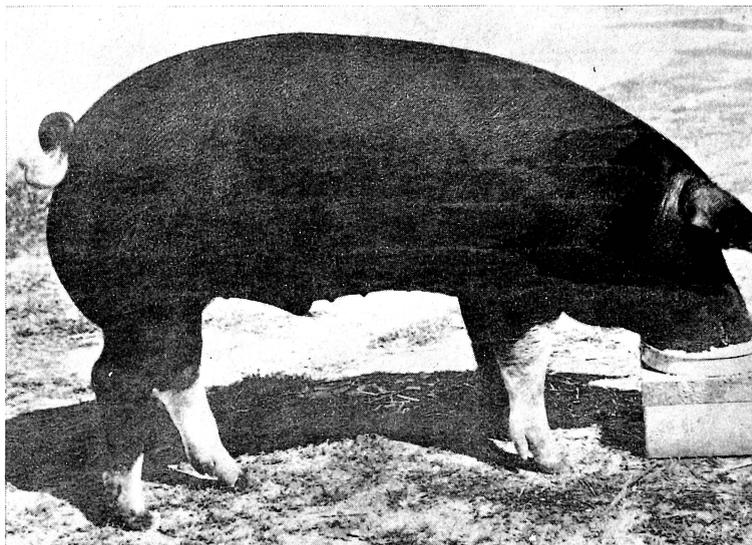
Here are the measurements of a meat-type hog:

- Live weight . . . . . 200 to 225 pounds
- Carcass length . . . . . 29 to 31 inches
- Average backfat thickness . . . 1.1 to 1.65 inches
- Loin eye area, 10th rib . . . 3.75 square inches or more
- Primal cuts (ham, loin, shoulder) . . . 48% or more of live weight

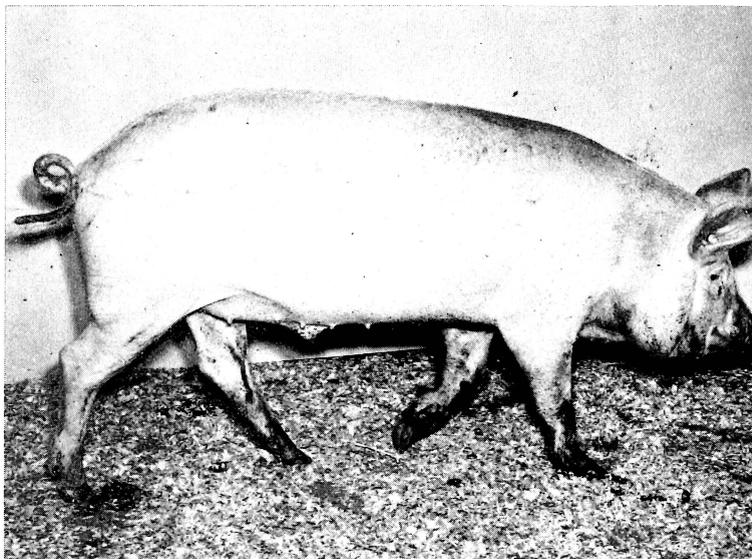
## Marketing A Meat-Type Hog

Market your meat-type hogs at 200 to 225 pounds. If possible, select a market that buys hogs by grade. Your meat-type hogs are worth more. So, sell them where their true value is recognized.

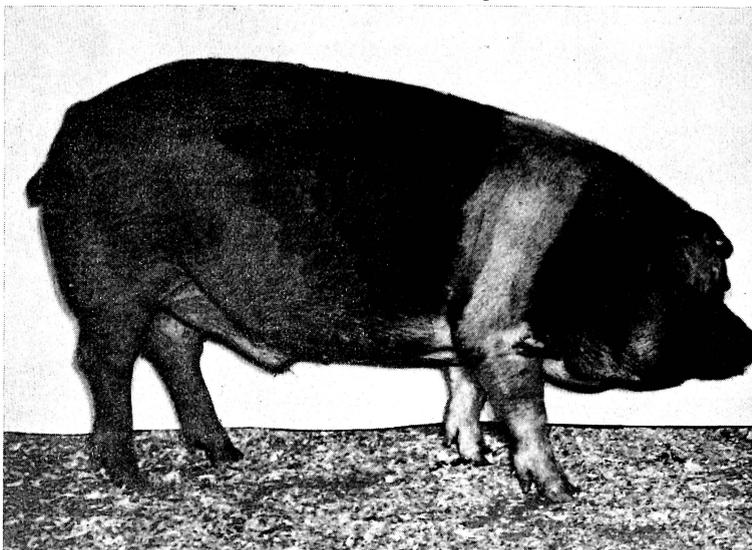
United States Government grades for slaughter hogs are U. S. No. 1, U. S. No. 2, U. S. No. 3, Medium and Cull. The U. S. No. 1 grade most nearly meets the requirements for a meat-type hog. U. S. No. 2 is slightly over-finished, or over-fat. And, U. S. No. 3 is much too fat.



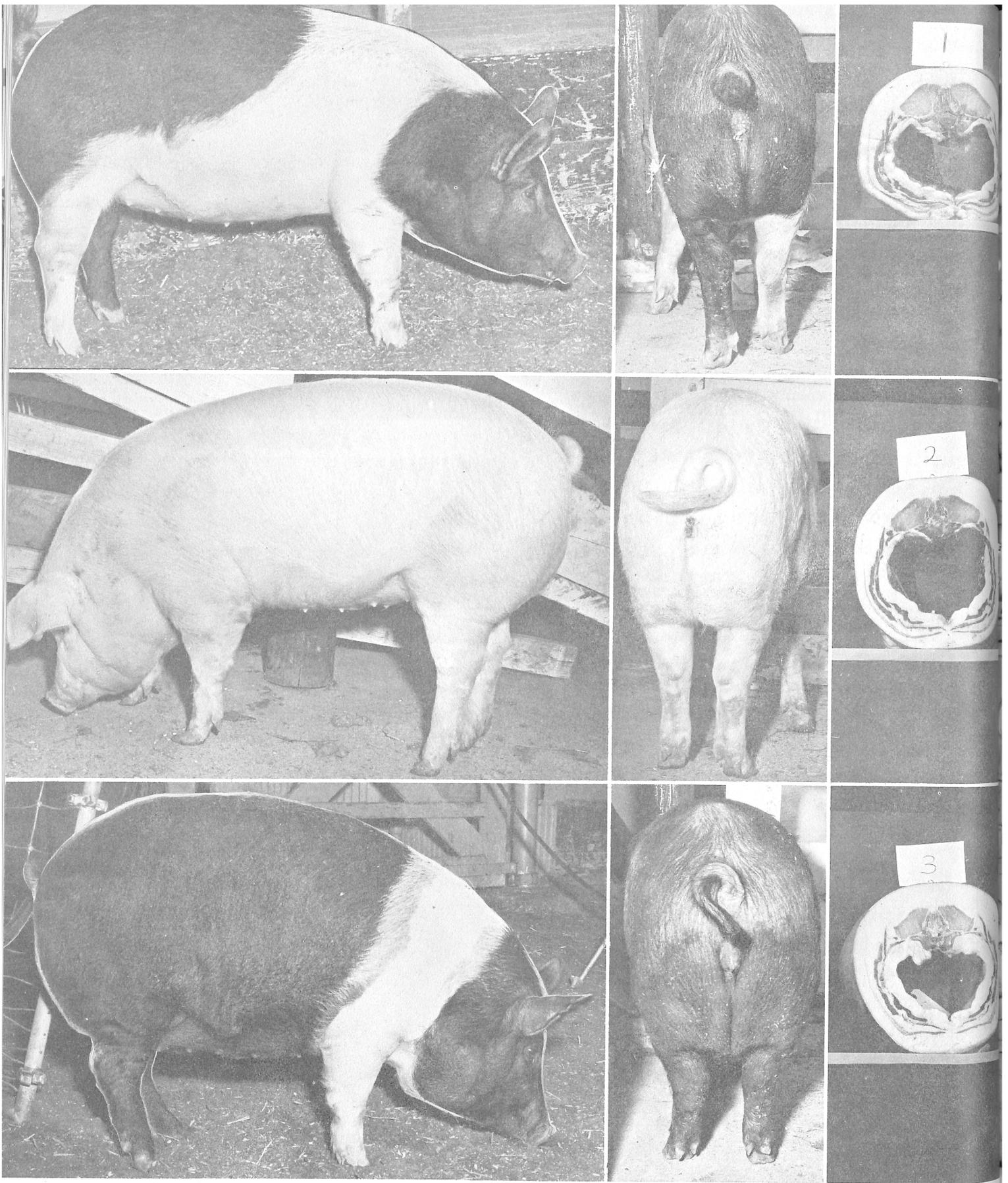
A good meat-type hog.



A thin, meatless hog.



A lardy, too fat hog.



Shown above are side and rear views and cross sections of carcasses of three hogs from the University of Missouri experimental herd. These show the range from the U. S. No. 1 hog at the top, through the U. S. No. 2 in the center, and the U. S. No. 3 below. The No. 1 hog has more meat, less fat than the other grades

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