

## University of Kentucky---College of Agriculture

EXTENSION DIVISION

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CIRCULAR NO. 213

SEPTEMBER, 1927

Published in connection with the agricultural extension work carried on by cooperation of the College of Agriculture, University of Kentucky, with the U. S. Department of Agriculture, and distributed in furtherance of the work provided for in the Act of Congress of May 8, 1914.

### \*Keep A Brood Sow

By GRADY SELLARDS

Changes in prices of hogs and variations in the ratio between the prices of hogs and corn frequently result in causing many farmers to go into and out of the hog business alternately. Successful hog raisers have found that it seldom pays to go in and out of the hog business; instead, they determine the number



of hogs that can be properly fed and cared for on the farm and retain that number year after year. Those who go in and out of the business in response to changing price conditions usually sell their breeding stock on a low market and buy it on a high market.

When hogs are properly fed, especially when an intelligent use is made of forage crops, hog production can be made profitable even when the ratio between hogs and corn would seem to indicate that hog production had reached the point where it could no longer return a profit.

Hogs are an important factor in any well diversified system of farming. In determining whether hogs are profitable, averages over a period of years should be taken, just as calculations are made in other lines of business. Over a period of years corn will bring more money when marketed thru hogs than when sold on the grain market.

In the feeding of hogs it should be remembered that approximately four-fifths of the fertilizing constituents of a bushel of corn fed a hog is recovered in the manure. If hogs are fed on pasture, much of this fertility is conserved.

Hogs are good scavengers. They are a valuable means of saving waste grain in fields where small grains have been harvested. They are also valuable in consuming damaged corn, skimmilk and garbage and when following grain-fed cattle they usually return a good profit.

Cattle feeders find the pork produced by hogs following cattle an important source of profit in cattle feeding. Many cattle feeders consider themselves successful if the pork produced is their only profit in cattle feeding. Hogs following cattle will make from 1 to 2 pounds gain for each bushel of ear or shelled corn fed to cattle.

Only first class grain will sell for top price on a grain market, but most of the inferior grain can be made to sell for a good price when fed to hogs.

Corn is considered the basic grain for hogs, but experiments have shown that ground barley and ground rye are effective substitutes for corn in hog feeding, and can be used successfully to supplement corn. These grains may be used more liberally when the corn crop is short.

Hogs can be self-fed more successfully than any other class of livestock, thus reducing the labor required.

Hogs are "money makers" if kept consistently, but are seldom profitable to those who habitually go in and out of the business.

Even a single brood sow, producing two litters of pigs, will furnish the average family with an adequate pork supply in addition to a few hogs for market.