

Here's How to Figure How Much You Can Afford to Pay for Pigs

The price a farmer can afford to pay for feeder pigs depends on the value of the finished hogs, cost of raising them, and death loss. USDA agricultural economists point out this guide is based on a cooperative study by ARS and the Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station.

To determine the finished value, a farmer first estimates the price at the time he will sell the hogs, and their probable weight. For example, if Mr. Jones wants to buy 35-pound feeder pigs in late May to sell in October, he may estimate the weight at 225, the price at \$16. The weight is based on experience with rate of gain, and the price is a forecast. His expected income or net value at the farm is 225 pounds times \$16 per hundred weight or \$36.

Probable costs should be estimated next. Figures vary from year to year and farm to farm. But experimental results show the average Midwestern farmer uses 350 pounds of corn and 50 pounds of protein supplement to add 100 pounds weight. This would be a total of 665 pounds (about 12 bushels) of corn and 100 pounds of supplement to increase Mr. Jones' 35-pounders to 225 pounds.

WITH CORN AT \$1.15, the cost for 12 bushels would be \$13.80. And with supplement at \$5 a hundredweight, total cost would be \$18.80.

Feed is the largest cost item, but labor, shelter, equipment, interest, and veterinary count, too. Usually, these amount to one-fifth of the feed cost. This is \$3.76, bringing total production costs to \$22.56.

Difference between income and total cost is the first estimate of the price a farmer can afford to pay for a feeder pig. This is \$13.44.

BUT THIS FIGURE should be adjusted for death loss. Probable survival rate is multiplied by the margin over cost per pig. Mr. Jones expects a death rate of 5 per cent, or a survival rate of 95 per cent. This is based on his own records. Multiplying margin per pig (\$13.44) by .95 gives price per pig \$12.77.

If Mr. Jones pays this price for a feeder pig, he can expect to get market price for his feed and average wages for his labor, and to cover all his costs for shelter, equipment, and other items. When a pig may be purchased for less than \$12.77, the difference constitutes profit.

Senate Legislation Puts Humane Slaughter Problem in Packer's Hands

CHICAGO, Illinois, July 30 — American Meat Institute stated to Legislation passed by the United States Senate yesterday will place the humane slaughter problems back in the hands of experienced experts where they belong, the day.

"The meat packing industry has always supported humane slaughter practices and has spent more time, money and effort and

come up with more progressive improvements to solve the difficult problems involved than has any other group," the Institute said.

It is vital, according to the Institute, that whatever means are devised that there be no interruption in the fast moving, highly efficient production lines of the industry.

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and

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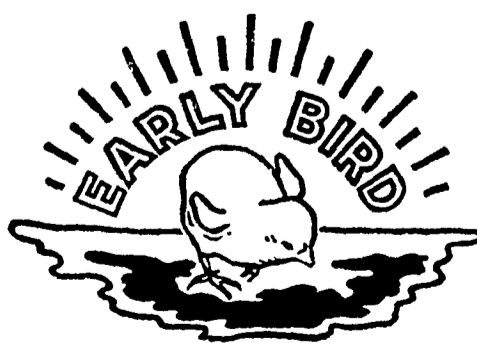
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(Continued from page nine) state organization now numbers over 3,000 dairymen, one of the largest memberships in the nation.

In a prepared speech, McGonigle told the group that the problems of the farmer and businessman are basically "similar to those of the businessman who is concerned with management techniques and methods, production and distribution and the impact or government regulation and taxation."

He denounced "agitators" in Pennsylvania who would like to "make us believe" that farmers and businessmen are natural enemies. This, he said, is a false doctrine. "We are dependent on each other. There can be no prosperity in Pennsylvania unless farmers are prosperous."

HE POINTED OUT that his own bakery in Reading uses nearly four per cent of the annual Pennsylvania wheat crop.

McGonigle unleashed his wrath on the Leader administration in speaking of the state's secondary road system. This system, he said, was once acclaimed as one of the finest in the nation. Now these roads have been allowed to "become full of potholes and ruin."

The Republican hopeful promised that added research at Penn State would be carried out under his administration. He pointed out that mastitis causes an annual loss of \$15,000 to dairymen.

"We need research to find the cause and cure of this disease," he said.

IN CLOSING HE urged better farm and business understanding, development of agricultural education and research facilities and better and more efficient enforcement of our farm laws. These, he said, are all essentials "in our efforts to cope with the complexities and problems of present day farm life."

McGonigle was introduced by state Sen Edward Kessler. Also on the program was county agent M. M. Smith who spoke briefly on quality forages in dairy production.

Donald Eby, R1 Gordonville, president of the county association was in charge of the program. Serving on the committee for the field day were Paul G. Longenecker, Richard Landis, and Melvin Peifer.

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