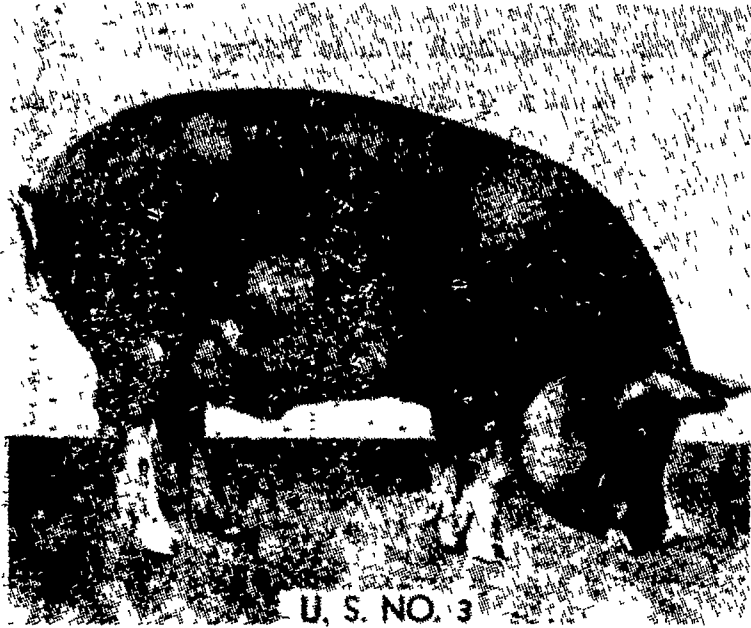


No. 3 Hogs Have More Fat



(Editors note: Following is the final article in a series by James E. O'Hara, USDA Market News Service Reporter, in charge of the Lancaster Stock Yards Division. Mr. O'Hara has in past weeks discussed and described the USDA standard slaughter cattle and hog grades, and interpreted their effect upon the farmer. Lancaster Farming wishes to thank both Mr. O'Hara and the AMS for their efforts in informing the farmers of Lancaster County of market news and factors influencing the local livestock markets.)

By James E. O'Hara

The U. S. #3 grade butcher is the fattest of all grades and probably the most wastey. It does not necessarily mean that a hog weighing over 240 lbs. will grade #2 or #3, but this is generally true, but on the other hand a butcher weighing between 190 and 200 lbs. may grade U. S. #3.

The price spread between U. S. No. 1 and No. 3 ranges from \$1 to \$2 throughout the year. Actually, the only time when it may be profitable to market No. 3 grade barrows and gilts is when the price spread is narrow and feed is cheap.

The average cut-out value of U. S. No. 1 over U. S. No. 3 live basis 200-220lb. barrows and gilts was 94c per cwt. based on wholesale carlot prices of fresh pork cuts at Chicago March 26 to April 1 inclusive.

Of all of the U. S. grades of pork, the No. 3 grade is probably the least eye appealing to the housewife, due to the excess amounts of fat.

As the percentage of No. 1 hogs increases throughout the country, the price spread will become greater and greater and at this same time some commercial feed companies have an incentive program to produce No 1 hogs that will yield over 50% of primal cuts.

The No. 3 grade hog will average somewhere about 40 to 44 per cent yield of primal cuts, and it has been stated that a 1 per cent increase above 50 per cent is worth about 25-35c per liveweight basis.

Official specification for U.S. No 3 grade follows.

Carcasses in this grade have a decidedly higher degree of finish than the minimum required for the production of acceptable quality cuts.

Meatiness based on yield of lean cuts in relation to carcass weight is low; yield of fat cuts is high. The ratio of total lean and fat to bone is high.

Carcasses with the minimum finish for U. S. No. 3 are wide and short in relation to weight.

The back and loins are very full and thick and appear especially full near the edges. Hams are usually thick very plump, and smooth and are full in the lower part toward the hocks.

Bellies are short, thick, smooth and uniform in thickness; the belly pocket is thick. Shoulders are thick and full but usually blend smoothly into the sides.

The carcass is well-balanced and smooth with uniform development of the various parts. There are large quantities of interior fat in the region of the pelvis, a moderately thick and extensive layer of fat lining the inside surface of the ribs, and slightly abundant feathering.

The flesh is firm. Both exterior and interior fats are firm, white, and of excellent quality.

Carcasses with nearly minimum fat thickness for the U.S. No. 3 grade but with the fat distribution, meatiness, and thickness and fullness of hams, loins, shoulders, and bellies typical of the U.S. No. 3 grade shall be graded U.S. No. 2.

EGG POINTERS

The eggs and egg dishes you're featuring in family meals this season of egg plenty deserve the cooking that makes them most appetizing. Here are some basic rules for the best results.

Use low to moderate heat in cooking eggs. Too high heat or over cooking toughens the texture.

When making custards, sauces or other mixtures that call for combining liquid with egg, avoid curdling by adding the hot liquid gradually to the beaten egg—never the egg into the hot liquid.

Beaten egg whites hold their form better if a little lemon juice or cream of tartar is added before beating.

To combine beaten egg whites with other mixtures, fold—don't stir—using a light under-and-over motion. For omelets and souffles fold the heavy mixture into the beaten egg white—not the whites into the other mixture.

Don't overmix or you will lose some of the air you have beaten into the egg whites.

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This Week

in Washington

by Clinton Davidson

Answer To a Debate

Farmers themselves have answered one of the most hotly debated questions in Washington—do high price supports cause excessive production?

Price supports for most crops this year average about 10% below last year. Farmers intend to plant at least five million more acres in the supported crops than they did last year.

Most of that increase could be explained by the ending of the soil bank acreage reserve program. While 17 million acres have been dropped from the acreage reserve, only 13 million acres have been added to the conservation reserve.

Farmers are planting more corn, wheat, cotton, and rice crops for which the smallest reductions in supports were made, and fewer acres in oats, barley, soybeans, grain sorghums and potatoes, crops less hard hit by support reductions.

Yes and No.

The answer, obviously, is that the level of price supports has little or no effect on total crop production, at least not immediately. But, when farmers can they increase acreage in crops that have the higher supports.

Secretary of Agriculture, Ezra Benson's entire farm philosophy has been based on the contention that high supports caused the accumulation of more than \$9 billion worth of surpluses and that, therefore, low supports would result in less production.

Last year supports averaged 20% under both five and ten years ago, but total farm output was a whopping 11% larger than for any previous year. Total acreage was lower but yields per acre set an all-time record high.

Farm income was up a healthy 20% in 1958 over 1957 due to a combination of higher prices and record production. The Department of Agriculture now expects a five to six per cent reduction in farm income this year, due entirely to lower supports and prices.

The lesson to be learned from this is that price supports at whatever level, are not the answer to a farm situation that is steadily worsening. We have production controls that do not control production and price supports that do not support prices.

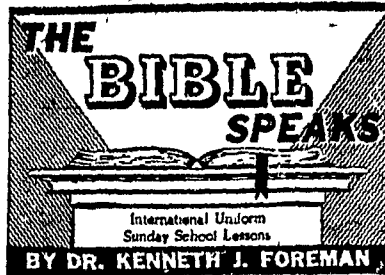
The remarkable increase in farm production has been due to increased efficiencies that have upped yields per acre and pounds of meat and milk per bushel of feed; to better disease and insect control and to greater use of fertilizer and machinery.

Some think the answer lies in forcing more farmers off the land and into the cities where they would become consumers instead of producers. In the past five years more than a million farm families have moved away, yet production has continued to increase.

Small farms have been absorbed by larger neighbors, more efficient production methods adopted and total production increased. Squeezing the small family-sized farmer out isn't the answer, either.

About one out of every three farmers is receiving a fair income—\$5,000 or more net per year. They produce three-fourths of all crops and livestock going to market. Few of them are producing at full capacity.

The other two should be encouraged to prepare for and seek off-farm employment that would provide a reasonable standard of living for themselves and their families.



Bible Material: I Samuel 16 1 through 18-16.
Devotional Reading: Psalm 3.

A Man Rises

Lesson for April 26, 1959

(Note to the reader: If you attend Sunday school, you may use a "quarterly" or other book which prints a certain passage of Scripture as the lesson. These printed passages are always taken from the larger amount of Bible material which is referred to at the head of this page. This column is not confined to the printed verses, but is based in general on the whole material, or some part of it which may not be in the printed section. The reader is always invited to read the entire Bible material and not the necessarily small amount which may be printed in the quarterly or used here.)



Dr. Foreman

Success Begins Within

Among the successful men of history, David the king of Israel takes a high rank. There are always reasons outside a man who succeeds, helping his success. Would Abraham Lincoln have achieved his peak of greatness had he lived in 17th-century England or in 20th century America? Would John Calvin have the same world-wide influence as pastor of any modern Presbyterian church as he had in the Geneva of the sixteenth century? Would David have made a good President of the United States? The answer in each case is No.

Nevertheless, circumstances only help on what is already there. A man without the seeds of success in him is not going to be pushed to a high pinnacle of glory merely because the times are calling for a great man. Thus to find the secret of David's success, as with all other great persons, we must look within.

"Such Popularity Must Be Deserved"

Now Is The Time . . .

BY MAX SMITH



Max Smith

TO BE CAREFUL WITH FERTILIZERS
The value of commercial fertilizers is shown by the desired plant food, the greater use of fertilizers toward the greater use of fertilizers crops. All growers are warned fertilizers containing any nitrogen should not come in direct contact with the seed or the plant roots be toxic to the plant and failure. Also, these fertilizers will kill inoculant on peas, soybeans, and gummes.

TO BE CAREFUL—Spring is always a busy time for the farmer and many pieces of heavy machinery are used in modern production. All machinery is reasonably safe, but operators become hasty and careless; protect your family by keeping all shields and guards in place. Do not permit extra passengers on machinery and be safe.

TO SPRAY FOR LEGUMES—By this time alfalfa and clover producers have already sprayed for the alfalfa and clover weevil bug and weevil control on alfalfa and clover is important in recent years in order to get the maximum yield from the crop. Many who have hesitated earlier this season have regretted the failure to spray, resulting in lower yields of lower quality forage.

TO PLAN TO MAKE SOME GRASS SILAGE
The weather making time is only a few weeks away. Also, hay-making is approaching rapidly and are you ready? We continue to maintain that it is a good idea for dairymen to make all or part of their first cutting of hay into grass silage; more feed nutrients are preserved during time of uncertain weather conditions. Earlier cuttings bring higher feed values in the crop but under difficult conditions to properly field-cure hay. More planning is one of the answers.

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