

Can Headaches of Growing Hog Numbers Be Averted?

Producer Says Pork Demand High

The president of the nation's hog farmers recently urged the meat industry to "take a careful look at supply and demand factors before hitting the panic button about a potential oversupply of pork".

Roy B. Keppy, of Davenport, Iowa, said that "a vital statistic is being ignored when intended farrowings are compared with parallel peaks reached in 1943". "Since we last produced this many hogs, the nation's popula-

tion has grown by about 70 million people. What may have been a glut on the market 27 years ago could actually add up to a consumer shortage this year and next".

The Iowa farmer, widely recognized as one of his industry's most successful producers of quality hogs, suggested that "on a per capita basis, we have been in recent years producing considerably less pork than the nation could eat. Every pound of our production has been consumed, even with market hogs running for \$25 to \$30 and with in-store prices at near-peak levels.

"We are concerned, of course, that the current and expected buildup may be developing too fast for the market to adjust immediately, but two or three

gests lime and fertilizer, according to soil tests, in late March or April.

Farmers who want additional information on pastureland renovation should obtain the 1970 Agronomy Guide from the extension service by calling 394-6821. The Guide gives additional details on perennial grasses for forage production.

factors can take the edge from a deep decline.

"One, producers can protect price and make the product more appealing by sorting carefully and selling hogs at 220 pounds or less. Price spreads that will develop this fall will make careful marketing profitable.

"Two, the entire industry can make special efforts to move the heavier supply into consumption with increased advertising and promotion, featuring the fact that consumer prices will be most attractive. We at the Pork Council are planning a substantial 32-city advertising campaign, paid by producer funds, to augment the sales efforts of packers, wholesalers, retailers.

"Third, the lower prices predicted will make pork even more attractive to overseas markets. We shipped 60 million pounds of pork to Japan alone in 1969, a year when we were actually pork-short on domestic need and prices were quite high. That market and others could, if our export forces are alert, take three to four times as much pork away from the domestic market," Keppy said.

Noting that hog prices have traditionally raced from peak to valley and back, Keppy said that "the pork industry is in excellent shape to prevent a real skid.

"Our product is better, leaner, more attractive than at any time in history. For the first time, we have an active, organized producer association to help level off supply and protect prices. And the packing-retailing industry is using modern patterns to merchandise the product. If we can mount a coordinated effort, we can probably wade through a bad period with minimum damage to price and income."

Increase Pastureland Yields With Seeding Now, Smith Urges

Now's the time for farmers who want to increase the yield from their old or established pastureland to do the job for best returns next year, according to Max Smith, Lancaster County agricultural agent.

"Both experience and research show late August or early September is the best time to make a new seeding. This is because cooler weather and more moisture give plants a good start this Fall and next Spring before hot weather arrives next Summer, Smith explained.

"We in the extension service suggest several steps to get the job done," Smith said. He outlined the procedure as follows:

If it's an old pasture to be renovated, the old sod or growth should be completely killed by plowing or discing.

Then a complete soil test should be made and the amount of lime or fertilizer indicated by

the test worked into the ground. Select and plant perennial grasses that will give maximum summer growth such as orchard grass (either Pennlate or Pennmead), smooth brome grass (Saratoga or Lincoln), timothy (Climax or Common), reed canary-grass (Common).

One or two of the above grasses in mixture will give more summer forage, Smith said, than native bluegrass pastures.

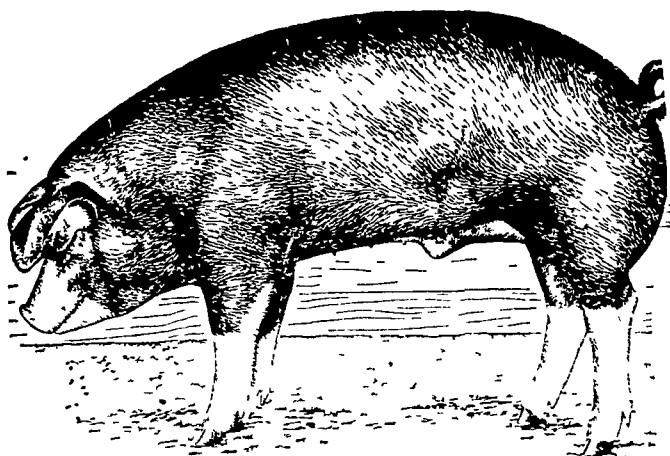
The seeding should be made by the middle of September for the best results.

Smith noted, however, that farmers in this area generally have found they can realize a greater return per acre by growing field crops on land which is level and suitable.

Pastureland is still the best use for many fields which are steep or rocky.

Where the pastureland is too steep for plowing, Smith sug-

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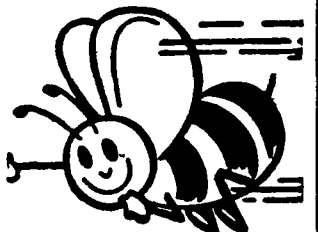
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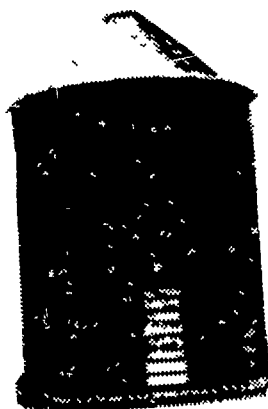


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