

Swine Department.

WHEN HOGS ARE RIPE, KILL THEM.

Gov. Rusk, of Wisconsin, happened to drive over the state line once into Minnesota, looking at the farms. He was particularly struck with one farm, on which he found everything in first class order, and, riding up to the house, inquired the name of the owner, when a tall German came out and gave his name as Theodore Louis.

"What do you regard as the greatest wealth-producing agency in agriculture?" the governor asked him.

"The hog," was the sententious reply.

"Upon what do you base this statement?"

"He lifts more mortgages than anything else."

"How long would you keep a hog?" asked Gov. Rusk.

"I would not keep him; I would kill him."

"When?"

"When he is ripe."

"When is he ripe?"

"When he is fat."

"Wouldn't it pay to keep a hog for two or three years."

"I tried that once," said Louis.

"I took a hog once in the fall and weighed him, and I took my corn and weighed it. When spring came the corn was all gone, and the hog weighed about what he did in the fall. That made me say next year that I would kill my hogs in the fall and save my corn."

"How much does it cost to keep a hog through the winter?"

"Three dollars."

"How many hogs winter in Minnesota?"

One million; I have just looked at the auditor's report."

"Do you mean to say that we lose \$3,000,000 a year in wintering our hogs?"

"Yes, that's what you do. If you kill them in the fall you will have left in your cribs \$3,000,000 worth of corn to sell."

A run for the pigs in a fine clover field will help develop them, it will stretch their hide, and give them the size and growth breeders strive for.

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If you want a rich field and healthy swine, just "hog" a piece of alfalfa.

All runts are not born runts, but may have their runtiness thrust upon them. In his early life a pig will go backward or forward very easily. Almost every pig will make a good porker if started right. Give the runt a little lift extra; a little boiled milk several times a day sometimes works wonders.

The day for wasting feed on old stags ended with slavery. Even the Cuban has no stomach for rank side meat. The pig that will dress 150 to 200 pounds at five months has knocked out the heavy weights.

In visiting an old breeder you will find, as a rule, his breeding boar in a large grass lot, and that he receives good attention. A boar cared for in this way will get stronger pigs than one kept in a dry lot on corn diet.

The first three months of a pig's life settle its worth. The flow of milk is then at its best, and the capacity of the youngsters to consume it is yet slight. Somewhat depends upon the number of pigs in the litter. The rub should not come until they begin to look for sustenance from some outside source.

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