FEEDING WHEAT TO STOCK.

Report Opinions or Methods of Feeding It to Hogs and Sheep.

Professor Henry writes in The Breeder's Gazette:

Reports in the daily papers state that Ohio farmers are feeding wheat and making 20 pounds of pork from a bushel—that is, three pounds of lean meat to a pound of gain, live weight. While such gains may be had for a week or two the feeding must not exceed more than a pound each from about four pounds of wheat, or say 16 pounds of pork from a bushel of wheat when fed to shoats that have been running on pasture and are not too fat for the following period. For long continued, fat the last few weeks of the following period show a very marked increase in the amount of feed for a pound of pork.

Allowing 16 pounds of pork for a bushel of wheat it will be seen that at present prices farmers can well afford to feed even merchantable wheat. This year, there is evidently more production of feeding wheat than is needed because of some slight frost which injures its flouring qualities, but not necessarily its feeding value.

But I should not feed the wheat by itself. It will pay much better to mix it with another grain or grain and a little shorts. Wheat flour is itself more a pure starch than any other grain, which can be converted to sugar, dextrine and starch or into a little bran. Two parts wheat, with one parts corn and one part oats or wheat, will prove the cheapest food for young pigs and shoats. For fattening hogs, two fifth corn, and half wheat. The wheat may be ground and mixed with the meal and will then not be so dusty. The food given in 1897 (three cent) has been a good food, on pasture, with a large, healthy, vigorous stock, should give splendid results, carry up the level of pork.

Producers just at the time there are a good many farmers who are waiting for the corn crop to come in order to feed their hogs. Some of these wise farmers may have wheat to dispose of which is of the best quality, selling for a low in the market. Feeding it I believe wheat will pay better, but will it not pay to feed more and to more cases than good wheat to hogs in order to fatten them off, sure time, feed and get ready money, which is quite as often just now quite money? It may cost a little storage to feed wheat to hogs, but there can be some cases where it will be due few years from the markets of the world would low, and may take second thought on this side as long as there is more money in feeding than in selling?

Farmers who have little wheat that he does not care to sell and does not wish to take it to the mill for grinding it can be boiled in a large kettle, and a little of it boiled wheat given to shoats or young pigs will pay double, I believe, what the miller will give for the wheat, in the way of helping the animals on in growth or flesh.

A correspondent of the St. Louis Republic says of feeding wheat to hogs and sheep:

Wheat is very low in price now, and there is no question but that in many cases it can be fed with good results. This is especially the case when feeding hogs or sheep to fatten. Under present conditions a higher price can be realized by feeding the wheat to sheep, thrifty hogs or sheep and then selling in this way than by selling the grain.

With hogs it can be fed to better advantage if it is soaked long enough to soften the grains thoroughly. The proportion is feeding it without soaking is that it is naturally a hard grain, and hence much more or less of it will be swallowed without being properly masticated, and the consequence is that more or less of it will not be digested, and of course this is a waste.

Wheat, before it is fed to hogs, should be soaked at least twice in hours, and it would not be too much. Use two barrels, and as fast as one is fed out fill it up and put to soak while the other is being fed.

In putting to soak use plenty of water. The grain swells very much, and plenty of water is needed to soften it thoroughly. It is best to begin feeding with a light ration and gradually increase until they are given all that they will eat up clean at each meal. With all kinds of stock it is comparatively easy to overfeed at the start, and it will require some time entirely to recover from the effect. The better plan is to bring them to full feed gradually, and then, once on full rations, to vary as much as possible. With sheep there is no special advantage in soaking the wheat. It is better, however, to feed in shallow troughs.

Another good way of feeding wheat to hogs is to grind it coarse and then make it into a slop with milk if it can be had, or with water if milk cannot be secured. Fattening hogs can be given all that they will eat of this, and if thrifty and given comfortable quarters and plenty of pure water will fatten very rapidly.

Five Black Points.

There are nearly 35,000 registered standard stallions in the United States.

At the poultry shows white fowls that have been reared in soft coal districts make poorer showing. They are so gray that they would not at first glance be taken for white at all, and they seem to belong to a breed apart from other strains of the same breed from anthracite and burning localities.

A writer says that the most advantageous feeding time is the hour preceding bedtime.

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