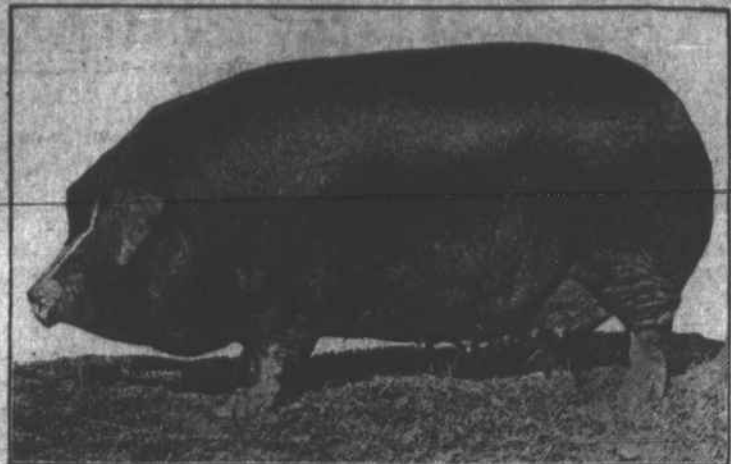


SWINE PROFITABLE ON SOUTHERN FARMS



A Champion Poland China Sow From Missouri.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

The farmer who is chiefly concerned with making a living for his family will find it cheaper to grow a large portion of his own meat than to buy it all from the store with the cash proceeds of some money crop. Hogs may be raised profitably on practically every southern farm, and if properly managed, should supply money as well food. Early settlers in the corn belt gave the name of "mortgage lifters" to their hogs; they can raise a mortgage in the South as well as in the corn belt.

Four things are necessary if the southern farmer wishes to get a start.

1. A place to raise and fatten pigs.
2. A pig worth raising and fattening.
3. Feed on which to raise and fatten them.
4. The necessary funds.

Let us consider these points in reverse order.

1. This article is written for the man whose principal concern is to supply food for his family. For such a man one or two sows will be enough. Good grade sows can be bought for \$10 or \$15 each; razorbacks can be bought for less and will produce good pigs if bred to a good pure-bred boar. If there is no pure-bred boar in the neighborhood whose services can be obtained, enough men should club together to represent the ownership of 20 to 25 sows and buy a good boar, paying pro rata for the boar, depending on the number of sows owned by each. Boars can be bought for from \$10 to \$25 for weaned pigs, and from \$50 to \$100 for yearling and two-year-old hogs. If 20 men owning 20 sows bought a yearling boar for \$50, each man would pay \$2.50 toward the price



A Well-Finished Lot of Pigs.

of the boar. Put the boar in the hands of one of the members of the club and let each other member agree to pay him one pig at weaning time for the care of the boar for one year, for attending to the breeding, etc. When sows come in heat, they can be loaded on a wagon and carried to the farm where the boar is kept for service.

2. Sows farrow almost exactly 16 weeks after they are bred. When the sow farrows try to be near at hand. Do not worry her with attention, but be there if she needs it. Watch that the buzzards do not carry off the little pigs or injure the sow. Give her a warm, thin slop as soon as she begins to move around. Then leave her alone for a while. That evening give her a slop with a little bran or cornmeal in it. Feed lightly for a few days and increase her feed gradually until the sow is getting about four pounds of grain each day for each 100 pounds of her weight. This will be within a week or ten days after she has farrowed. She should be fed morning and evening. Kitchen scraps and slops will be good for her and will reduce the grain needed somewhat. These slops must not contain any soap or glass.

As corn is the most available grain in most sections of the South, it will have to be relied on for feeding both the sows and pigs. With the grazing crops which are suggested for hogs a fairly well-balanced ration will be obtained.

When you are about ready to wean the pigs reduce the sow's feed so that by the time the pigs are weaned she will have only about two pounds of grain each day for each 100 pounds of her weight. Keep her on a Bermuda pasture and let her have this ration until she is in good condition. Keep sows in good flesh, but not excessively fat.

Sows can be made to produce two litters each year. When this is desired they should be bred at the first period of heat after the pigs are weaned. Sows bred twice each year

will not produce so many pigs in each litter as when bred only once a year, but more pigs should be raised in a year from each sow.

It does not pay to try to raise hogs on grain alone. In fact, the profit in pig raising, especially in the South, depends directly on the amount of pasture of some kind used to enable the pig to make its gain in weight. Of the southern forage crops peanuts, soy beans, rape and cowpeas are especially valuable. Now, these are not available all through the year, therefore we use a series of crops. For example, have some winter oats on which the sows can be turned as soon as the pigs are a week or two old. When these are gone put the pigs on good Bermuda and lespedeza pasture. Have a crop of soy beans or cowpeas coming and turn the pigs on this after weaning, keeping the sows on the Bermuda. When these are gone put the pigs in a peanut patch, and finish fattening them on rape.

The pigs should be weaned at ten or twelve weeks of age and should then weigh about 30 pounds. They should have learned to eat a little grain by going to the sow's trough. Then begin to feed them. Give them every day grain equal to 2 per cent of their weight. A pig weighing 30 pounds should have 56 pounds of grain; ten pigs of this weight, six pounds, etc. Divide this into two feeds, morning and evening. This amount of grain will make them grow nicely on good pasture. As they grow, increase the amount of grain. When they weigh about 125 pounds give them 3 per cent of their weight in grain, and when they weigh about 150 pounds each give them 4 per cent and finish them off, slaughtering in the winter on a cool day. Pigs properly fed should weigh 200 pounds at nine months old. Do not feed cottonseed meal to hogs.

It is not necessary to spend a lot of money to carry out such a plan. Of course, the Bermuda pasture where the sows are turned should have a good fence. The crops on which the pigs are grazed can be fenced with homemade hurdles of lumber or woven wire, which may be moved as desired, and the pigs will stay in it while the pasture is good. Ten pigs can be kept on half an acre of one of the crops mentioned above from four to eight weeks, depending on their size.

3. A poor pig is not worth raising or feeding. Your pigs should be sired by a good pure-bred Duroc Jersey, Berkshire, or Poland China boar. After you have decided which of the three you want, stick to the same breed and in a little while you will have pigs which are very much alike, a model for others, and an advertisement for your community. If you can afford it, start with good grade sows. If not, natives (razorbacks) will do. White pigs should not be used in the South, as they sunburn badly.

4. Expensive houses are not necessary for hogs in the South. Give the sow a dry place to farrow, a pen well bedded and sheltered from cold winds and storms, and both she and the pigs will do well. Little pigs that get chilled or wet soon after birth often die or grow into "runts." If there is no suitable place around the farm for the sow, make a lean-to with poles, about 10 by 12 feet, six feet high in front and four feet high behind, facing it to the south, and thatch it with straw, cheap hay, or even cornstalks, and the litter will be well housed. Make the thatch roof higher in the middle than at the sides and smooth it down so that rain will run off.

Two sows should raise five pigs each, giving the farmer ten pigs to slaughter. These pigs should weigh, when slaughtered, 200 pounds each, making 2,000 pounds of live weight. This costs about 3 1/2 cents per pound to make in the South under the system described above, which is an original cost of \$70. Killing will cost not over \$5. The loss in dressing is about 30 per cent of the live weight, or 600 pounds on ten pigs, so that 1,400 pounds of dressed pork is on hand after slaughtering. If you can get a local ice plant to chill and cure the meat for you, the manager should charge not over four cents per pound, which is \$56. Then the meat loss-weight in curing, amounting to about one cent per pound, or \$14. The total cost of the meat is about as follows:

Raising 2,000 pounds, at 3 1/2 cents per pound	\$ 70
Killing	5
Curing 1,400 pounds, at 4 cents per pound	56
Shrinkage on 1,400 pounds, at 1 cent per pound	14
Total	\$145

much milk as a cow costing \$45 or \$50, while costing little more to support. The best way to obtain a good dairy herd is to buy a pure-bred bull with a pedigree that shows his dam and grand-dams to have been large producers of milk and to breed up a herd with him as a foundation, saving the best heifer calves and caring for them well.

Touchstones of Success. Comfort and contentment are the touchstones of success. When a cow is comfortable and contented, she responds with a flow of milk far in excess of that she gives when she is uncomfortable and irritated.

LIVE-STOCK-FRUIT-DAIRYING-GARDENING-FIELD CROPS-SILOES-IGS

New Wrinkles in Progressive Agriculture

FARM AND FIELD

Making the Farmers' Business Profitable

TOLD IN AN INTERESTING MANNER EXPRESSLY FOR OUR READERS

BEST TIME FOR FRESHENING

Several Good Reasons for Having Cows Drop Calves During Months of September and October.

It is generally held by breeders that it is best to have cows freshen in the months of September and October. There are several reasons for having cows calve at this time. First, the cow will produce more milk when she freshens in the fall instead of in the spring; second, the prices for dairy products are higher during the winter months than in summer; third, calves born in the fall may be turned out to



We Should Keep Cows Adapted to Our Needs.

pasture to better advantage than those born in the spring; they are older and more capable of protecting themselves from flies. When cows freshen at this season of the year, and it is desired to have them freshen the following year at the same time, it is necessary to carry them for three months before breeding. This is the usual practice among the best dairymen.

We would say that it would be better to begin breeding the animals the first of January if it is desired to have them freshen in the fall, for it is quite possible that it will require more than one breeding.—Hoard's Dairyman.

CLEAN WATER IS NECESSARY

Artificial Pond Erected by Illinois Farmer Proves Quite Adequate for All Needs of Farm.

Good clean water is an essential necessary for the comfort and well-being of the dairy herd. Spring or well water, if good, is possibly the best, but when there is not a sufficient supply a good deep pond does not come amiss.

We have an artificial pond which supplies our needs in this direction, which is ordinarily from twelve to fourteen feet deep, cool and clean.

This pond was made by building a dam across a hollow in the pasture 45 feet wide at the bottom and wide enough at the top so a team could be driven across, says an Illinois writer in Farmers' Review. A wall on the inside of the dam was constructed of two-inch white oak boards to keep the wash from breaking the dam. The outlet is not over the dam, but on the side.

To accomplish this task three teams and four or five men were kept busy for three weeks. After the dam had settled it was built up to the necessary height twice at different intervals.

Here we row with a skiff at leisure, and have a good old-fashioned swim when we so desire. In the winter we have a place to skate, and a most excellent place to get an abundance of ice for the icehouse. Not only this, but the neighborhood at threshing time has the privilege of securing all the water they wish to use. When the wells go dry there is plenty there to fill the demand. It took a lot of hard labor and backache, but it has given us 12 years or more of service.

JUDGMENT IN BUYING COWS

If Animal Has Characteristic Color Markings for Her Breed She is Always Easily Salable.

When buying cows, don't buy anything that won't sell well again in case you should want to do so. The best demand is for grade cows of the leading breeds, and if a cow of the characteristic color markings for her breed, she is easily salable. Of course, to sell a cow on the strength of her color alone is hardly fair to the buyer. Get them with color combined with production. The chances are, however, that once you have a nice looking cow that is a persistent milker you will not be tempted to part with her, no matter how short of money you may be.

Water Supply for Cows.

In winter the water supply for dairy cows should have close attention. If watered from an outdoor tank the water should have its chill removed before cows are allowed to drink it; if cows are watered in the barn, be sure the watering devices are free from filth that may render the water impure or unwholesome. By all means water cows regularly.

Touchstones of Success.

Comfort and contentment are the touchstones of success. When a cow is comfortable and contented, she responds with a flow of milk far in excess of that she gives when she is uncomfortable and irritated.

PRUDENT TREATMENT OF EWE

In Winter Keep Her on Clover or Alfalfa Hay Until After Lamb Comes—Give Some Wheat Bran.

A sensible treatment of the ewe that lambs in winter is to keep her mostly on clover or alfalfa hay until after her lamb comes. There will be no need to limit the amount of hay that she consumes after lambing and then when her lamb takes all her milk and wishes more, begin feeding her a little wheat bran. For a week bran will suffice, gradually increasing the amount fed, then there may be added to it a little chopped corn or barley and a little later some oil-meal. A pound a day of this mixture will keep her in good milk flow and it must be gradually led up to for about ten days.

About the right proportions of this mixture are 100 pounds of wheat bran, 100 pounds of chopped corn and 20 pounds of oil-meal. This with clover or alfalfa hay will push her to a very heavy milk flow. If she is a large ewe she may consume more than a pound to advantage, as much as two pounds being consumed by some large Dorset ewes.

If this feed is so gradually introduced to the ewe that her digestion is not disturbed nor her milk flow stimulated too much at first, there is small danger of overfeeding her, supposing that the lamb is to be pushed for early market. Her unselfish nature turns the feed quickly into milk and little of it goes to nourish her own body.

HORSES IN STORMY WEATHER

Sufficient Care Not Always Observed When Animal Has Been Heated After Strenuous Drive.

It is not generally realized to what an extent loss in horseflesh is suffered on account of exposure in stormy and cold weather, not only in cities, but also on farms. When the horse is driven rapidly or required to draw heavy loads, the action of the heart is increased, the blood circulates more freely and rapidly to the lungs and the surface of the body, and he becomes heated. Then the horse sweats more or less, and when in this condition is more sensitive and more liable to be injured by currents of cold air or by exposure to rain. This is not sufficiently considered, and it is a very common occurrence to see such a horse left by his driver to stand in the street without any protection whatever until he is chilled through. Even where there is some appearance of care, in the way of providing a blanket for use on such occasions, this is frequently put on in such a way as to leave the most sensitive portions of the body exposed. When a horse is allowed to stand so the currents of cold air strike the breast, the result is likely to be more or less serious lung trouble, and this may be brought about in much less time than many suppose.

SLAUGHTER HOGS IN WINTER

Good Plan to Provide Double Hook, Bent into "U" Shape, to Support Gambrel Stick.

Farmers use a pole to hang the hogs on at slaughtering time in winter. On this pole a gambrel stick is placed, the ends being inserted in the hook of the animal's leg. It is always a hard job to do the hanging and place the gambrel stick at the same time, writes Leslie R. Sutter of Towanda, Ill., in Popular Mechanics. A better way is to provide a double

Hook Provides Easy Way to Hang Hog After Gambrel is in Place.

hook of metal, heavy enough to support the animal, and hang the gambrel stick on this hook, as shown. The metal may be square or round, bent into a U-shape of such dimensions that it will fit over the timber used in hanging the hogs and with a hook formed on each end. It is an easy matter to insert the gambrel while the hog is lying on the work table, then lift it by the gambrel and place the latter on the hooks.



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Winter Shed for Wagons.

If there is no room in the barn for the wagons during winter time, a few dollars will build a shed in which to shelter them from the storms. The saving in paint and strength of wood would astonish you if there was any way to estimate it.

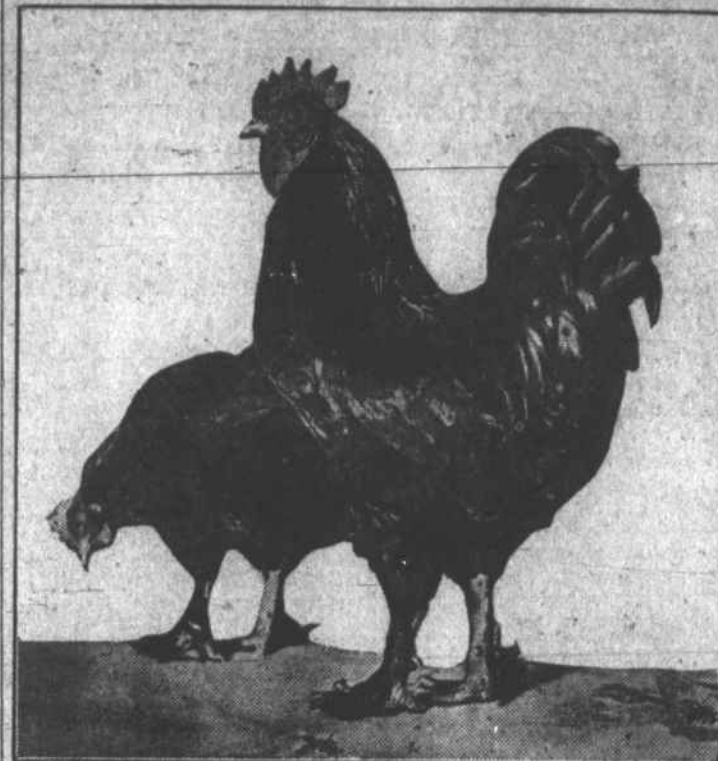
Fresh Pork is Relished.

Have you got a pig in the pen for fattening? Fresh pork is relished at this time of the year and there is no reason why the farmer should not be entitled to the best that may be had. The farmer's wife has plenty of work to do this time of year without dressing chickens.

Look Over Seed Corn.

Now is the time to begin looking over the seed corn. Test it carefully with some of the improved seed testers. It is much better to test your seed corn in the house than to test it in the field when planting time comes.

HOW TO HANDLE PRIZE-WINNING POULTRY



Black Langshans.

First, know what sort of a bird is a prize winner. To do this study the pictures of winning birds that are shown in the farm papers and poultry journals. Compare the best of your flock with these. When you go among the flock to pick your birds, look for those that have grown rapidly, and are well feathered.

Don't take those that have dull, lifeless feathers. Don't take any that are out of proportion, or that show any sort of a malformation, such as a crooked back or breastbone.

Don't take birds which are supposed to have clean legs and feet and which have feathers there instead. It doesn't pay to show fowls which will be disqualified.

There are minor faults, however, which may be overlooked. For it doesn't matter greatly whether a cockerel has one too many points on his comb. Too much stress should not be laid on faults which do not really disqualify.

After the birds are selected, they should be tamed. Tame birds act better in the show room. Take them up and handle them. Practice putting them into show coops, handling them carefully so as not to frighten them. Never take a bird up by its feet. Put it into the coop head first and take it out by grasping it by the thighs, over the wing and under the breast. In

this way the bird cannot flap its wings and break them, and you cause it no discomfort. Practice up on some of your common stock before you tackle your show birds. When you have learned how to do it you can handle them all you wish.

Do not overfeed your birds before shipping. If you are going to ship to a show where the birds are weighed in, see to it that they arrive at the show rooms with good appetites. The show management will see to it that they are properly fed before being weighed. Feed just what they will clean up and remove the rest. It doesn't pay to cram before shipping. When they arrive, they have no appetites, and are weighed in to poor advantage.

The male birds should be kept separate. Otherwise the two best ones are almost sure to get to fighting just before the show, and will thus be out of condition. If you must keep them together, be sure that your show bird is master of the coop. Otherwise he becomes cowed and will not show to good advantage.

If in doubt in regard to any points about your birds, consult some local authority who can tell you just which is the best bird.

Provide Dusting Boxes. Provide dusting boxes and keep them well filled with loose dirt.

MOLDY FEED BAD FOR HENS

Cause of Many Deaths Among Poultry, Particularly Among Young Chicks, Can Be Prevented.

Don't give poultry moldy feed. It causes aspergillosis and chickens afflicted with this are "lungers."

"Moldy feed and moldy litter in poultry houses are the cause of many deaths among poultry, and particularly among young chicks," says J. B. Hayes of the poultry department of the University of Wisconsin. These molds taken into the body of the fowl cause a disease known as aspergillosis which is as fatal as the name sounds. Among poultry men, the chicks affected with this trouble are commonly spoken of as "lungers."

The chick stands around in a drowsy manner and shows little desire to eat. The wings hang down, the breath is rapid, and white diarrhea is present. Indeed, the disease is many times mistaken for white diarrhea. Older birds, when attacked, are inactive and sleepy. If forced to run, they will fall from exhaustion. The breathing is rapid, the appetite is diminished and more or less catarrh is present.

An affected chick will be found to have soft yellow growths from the size of a pinhead to that of a pea, mainly in the lungs but sometimes in the intestines and mesentery. These growths clog the air passages of the lungs and so cause the death of the birds. In mature fowls there are two forms of the disease. The membranes lining the air sacs and tubes may be covered with a membranous formation which is soft and yellowish and has an offensive odor. Or there may be white or yellowish nodules imbedded in the tissues of the lungs. In either case the disease is incurable.

But since it is caused by moldy feed or moldy litter it can be entirely prevented by cleaning up the poultry house once in a while and keeping moldy feed and litter away from the flock. This is only one of the many poultry troubles that can be avoided by clean feed and clean pens and yards.

Care of Details Important.

As a rule it is the taking care of the little things that goes furthest toward making a success of any business.

This is especially true in the poultry business. Until one masters this feature of the work he cannot hope to be a real success. This is one reason why many women are really successful in the raising of chickens. They have the inborn faculty for detail in their work.

Persistence Makes Success.

Those who become discouraged at a few failures will seldom succeed with poultry. Failures are often met in any line, and poultry is no exception to this rule. It takes persistence to make a success at anything.

Increase the Meat Ration.

Remember, in cold weather to increase the meat ration, as the hens need it to keep up the heat for the body.

Egg Stimulating Feed.

Scraps saved at butchering time make a fine stimulating feed in cold weather.



GOOD ROADS

ROADS IN BETTER CONDITION

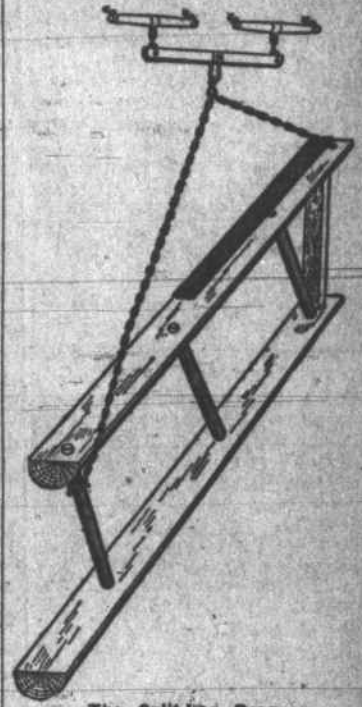
Split-Log Drag of Great Service in Keeping Thoroughfares in Shape—How It is Built.

The use of the split-log drag is important in putting the roads in shape. There are over 2,000,000 miles of earth roads in the country, and the split-log drag is of great service in keeping them in economical repair. The drag is used in many states and in foreign countries. It is used with two, three, or four horses, and is easily constructed.

It is a mistake to construct a heavy drag. A dry red cedar log is the best material for a drag. Red elm and walnut when thoroughly dried are excellent, and box elder, soft maple, or even willow are preferable to oak, hickory or ash.

The log should be seven or eight feet long, and from ten to twelve inches in diameter, and carefully split down the middle. The heaviest and best slabs should be selected for the front. At a point on the front slab four inches from the end that is to be at the middle of the road locate the center of the hole to receive a cross stake, and 22 inches from the other end of the front slab locate the center for another cross stake. The hole for the middle stake will lie on a line connecting and halfway between the other two.

The log should then be placed in a position behind the other. From the end at the middle of the road measure 20 inches for the center of the cross stake, and six inches from the other end locate the center of the



The Split-Log Drag.

inside stake. Find the center of the middle hole as before. When these holes are brought opposite each other, one end of the back slab will lie 16 inches nearer the center of the roadway than the front one. The holes should be two inches in diameter. Care must be taken to hold the sager plumb in boring these holes in order that the stakes shall fit properly.

The two slabs should be held 30 inches apart by the stakes. The stakes should taper gradually toward the ends. There should be no shoulder at the point where the stakes enter the slab. The stakes should be fastened in place by wedges only. When the stakes have been placed in position and tightly wedged a brace two inches thick and four inches wide should be placed diagonally to them at the ditch end. The brace should be dropped on the front slab, so that its lower edge shall lie within an inch of the ground, while the other end should rest in the angle, between the slab and the end stake. A strip of iron about three and one-half feet long, three or four inches wide, and one-half of an inch thick may be used for the blade.

An ordinary trace chain is strong enough to draw the implement, provided the clevis is not fastened through a link. The chain should be wrapped around the rear stake, then passed over the front slab. Raising the chain at this end of the slab allows the earth to drift past the face of the drag. The other end of the chain should be passed through the hole in the end of the slab.

Make-Up of Dairy Cow.

A wide, deep and full barrel or side is very important in a dairy cow. She must have plenty of room in which to manufacture milk from food and a large barrel indicates large digestive organs. A wide mouth and long, strong jaws also indicate that Hossy is, like Bill Nye, "fond of food." She ought also to have a large belly and moderate high flank.

Beautiful Home Grounds.

Set out fruit trees where they will add to the beauty of the grounds.

Applying Manure.

When we apply manure to the grass land we get the lever under the very center of gravity of the whole farm. When the grass crop comes up the whole farm comes up with it.

Spread of Cholera Germs.

Keep a loaded gun for pigeons, rats and English sparrows that carry hog cholera germs.

Source Man.

The 200-egg per year hen is almost as scarce as the hen with teeth.