

# Approach of Colder Weather Signals Hog Killing Season

With the approach of cold weather, farm families throughout North Carolina will be thinking about killing hogs. Meats specialists at N. C. State college offer a few tips for producing high quality pork at home.

First get a meat-type hog (one between 200 and 220 pounds that is six months old and has plenty of length and meatiness to it). The meat from these animals will cure

easier than joints from larger animals. If these animals are going to be killed at home they should be killed late in the evening and allowed to hang over night and chill out before cutting and processing.

Do not get hogs over-excited before killing; this may give the meat poor keeping qualities.

Be sure that hogs are bled properly for better keeping quality.

In curing meat at home, if the weather is not satisfactory the meat may sour or become off-flavor. If you have a meat processing plant or locker plant in your area, take advantage of their facilities for processing and curing.

Follow a recommended curing schedule for curing meat to prevent over salty meats.

When you take hams out of cure, or get them home, be sure to hang

the hams in a fairly dry, cool place. Also, be sure to bag those hams by the first of March to prevent insect damage.

Do not over load your home freezer. Do not put in more than 10 per cent of the total capacity of your freezer in any one 24-hour period. If you have a large amount of meat to go into your home freezer, have it quick frozen at your

locker plant or processing plant.

If you wish to have your meat processed at a freezer locker plant or processing plant, be sure to let them know before hand if you are going to kill hogs or cattle so that they can take them in and do a quality job for you. Deliver the animals to the place of slaughter early in the day so that they can be slaughtered on the same day.

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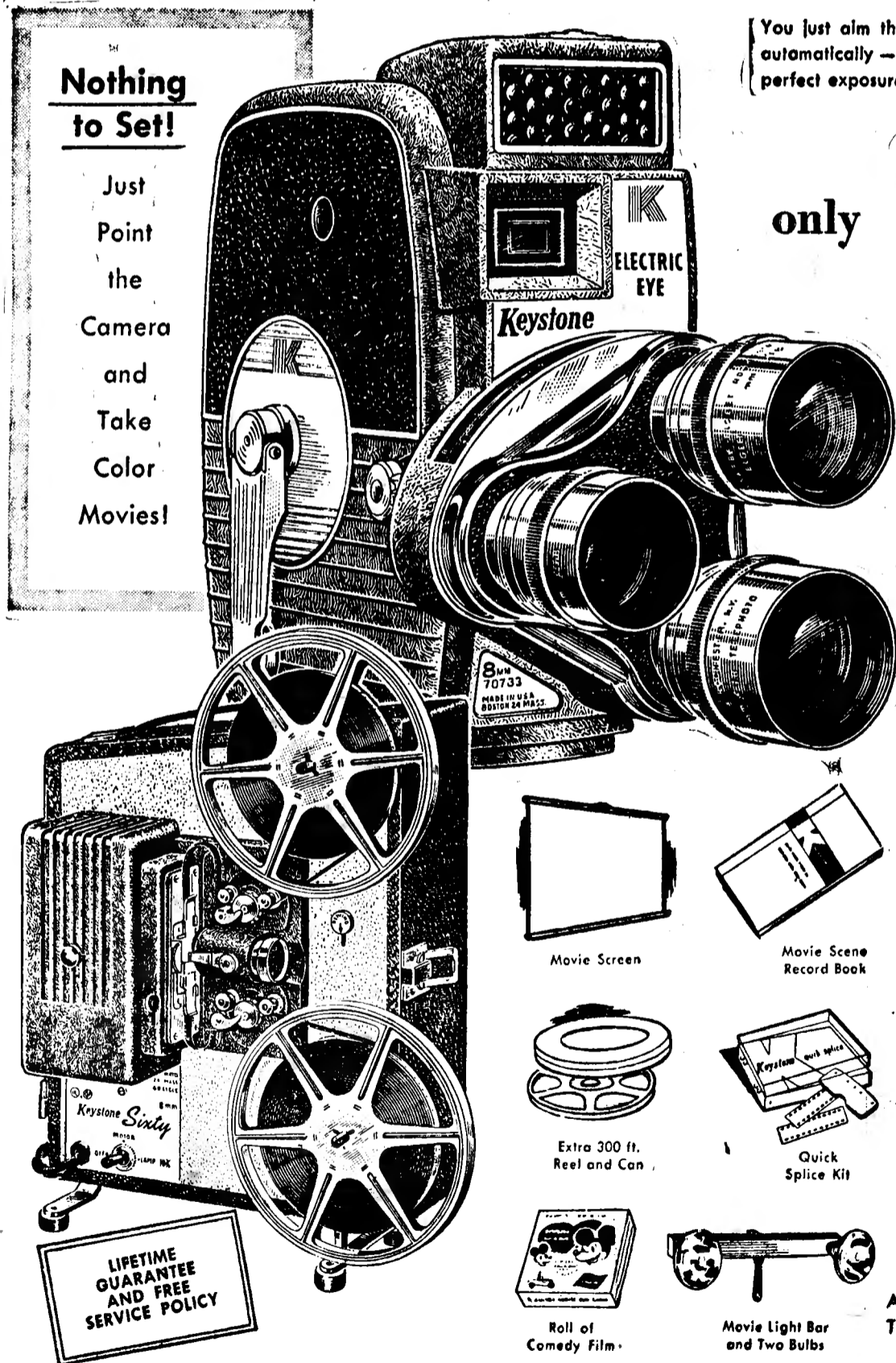
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