

Our Progressive Farmer Boys

A BOYS' PIG-FEEDING CONTEST.

How to Feed Pigs for Best and Most Economical Growth—Give Them a Variety of Feeds, and Just a Little Less Than They Will Eat.

DOWN IN OKTIBBEHA County, Miss., the boys have a pig-feeding contest, and as a result, there are more good hogs in that county than ever before. Dr. Tait Butler was requested to tell how best to feed these pigs for economical gains, and we give his reply:

"The important points in feeding the pig are, (1) that he receive some green or succulent feed; (2) that there be a variety of feeds he likes, and (3) that the ration contain sufficient bone and muscle-making materials.

"For green or succulent feed the clovers, cowpeas, peanuts, soy beans or other legumes are the best. If these can not be had, then green corn, sorghum, or any other green stuff he will eat. In order to obtain variety, at least two other feeds will probably be found necessary, in addition to the green feed. If fed carefully and not in too large quantity, 'roasting ears' produce rapid and good gains.

"In addition, some feed rich in protein will be necessary. The best of these for pigs is skimmed milk. With clover, cowpeas, peanuts or soy beans for pasture, and roasting ears and milk and wheat shorts, the very best gains should be made. We would feed them in this way: Let the pigs run on the clover, cowpeas, peanuts or soy beans. Night and morning give them all the shorts and milk, mixed in the proportion of about 3 pounds of milk to one pound of shorts, they will eat up clean and want just a little more, and then feed them a few roasting ears or a little dry corn at noon.

"If green feed is cut for them, give them this before feeding the other feeds and let them eat it some time before feeding grain or concentrated feeds. If nothing but green feed and corn is available or can be had, then try and buy some dried blood or digester tankage to mix with the slops from the house. If dried blood is used, one part of blood to 10 or 12 of corn is sufficient; but if tankage, one part to 8 or 10 of corn should be fed.

"If skimmed milk can be had, there will be no need for the blood or tankage. Feed a tablespoonful of hardwood ashes once a day and keep the following mixture in a box under shelter where the pigs can get it: 1 bushel charcoal, 1/2 bushel hardwood

ashes, 1 pound copperas, 1 pound of salt. Chop the charcoal up into lumps the size of hickory nuts, pulverize the copperas, and mix all thoroughly. Never leave feed before a pig. Feed two, three or four times a day; the oftener the more rapid the gains, but never give at one time quite as much as the pig would eat. If a mistake is made, and some feed is left, remove it at once, and next time be careful to give no more than he will eat up clean. Good gains may be made on peanuts, cowpeas or soy beans and corn, but still better gains will be made if a little milk or some other feed of which the pig is fond can be used."

FARMERS' INSTITUTE HELD AT CLAREMONT, VA.

Messrs. Editors: The Old Dominion Steamship Company and the Virginia Department of Agriculture held a very interesting and profitable farmers' institute at Claremont, Surry County, August 24.

Mr. W. W. Sproule, widely known as a banner potato raiser, spoke in a very interesting manner on potato diseases, and best methods of fighting them. This talk was all the more appreciated by the farmers of this section since the majority of them are engaged in the growing of potatoes as a fall crop.

Mr. Sproule was followed by Prof. T. C. Johnson of the Virginia Truck Experiment Station, who talked on the most common diseases attacking cantaloupes and cucumbers. As one of the advantages gained in spraying cucumbers at the truck station, Prof. Johnson stated that sprayed cucumbers produced 12 profitable pickings as against 4 pickings from the unsprayed vines.

Mr. B. Q. Bragg of the Old Dominion Steamship Company brought up the subject of King's split-log drag for improving rural roads. He stated that if six farmers would together make application to the company for one of these drags, it would furnish one free of charge, which seems like a liberal offer and should be taken up at once.

The last number on the program was a talk by Mr. S. B. Heiges, corn and fruit expert, who spoke very entertainingly on the proper breeding and improving of corn and how, with a little effort, a farmer can produce seed corn of the best quality. However, he warned his hearers against the common practice of allowing corn to inbreed.

The attendance at the institute was made up of representative farmers from all the surrounding section of Claremont, and altogether was an occasion of great profit and pleasure.

M. H. CHESBRO.

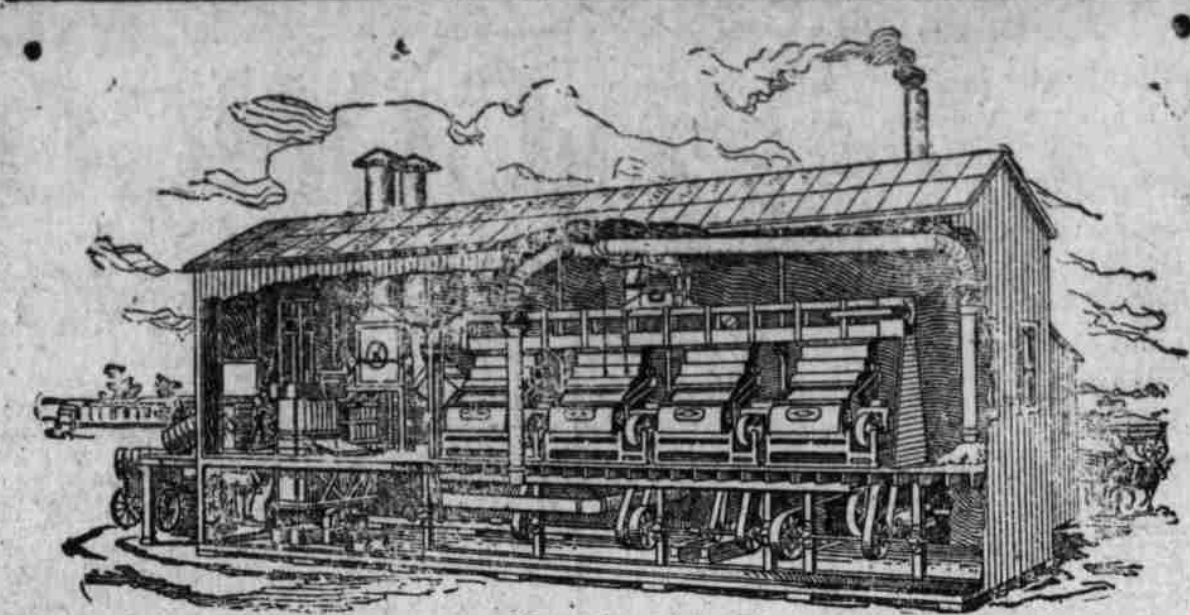
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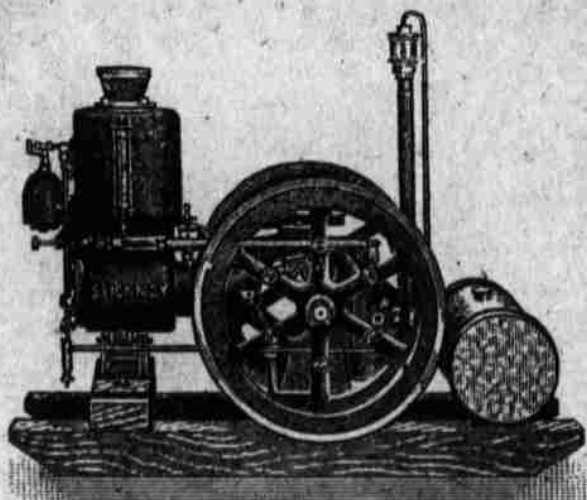
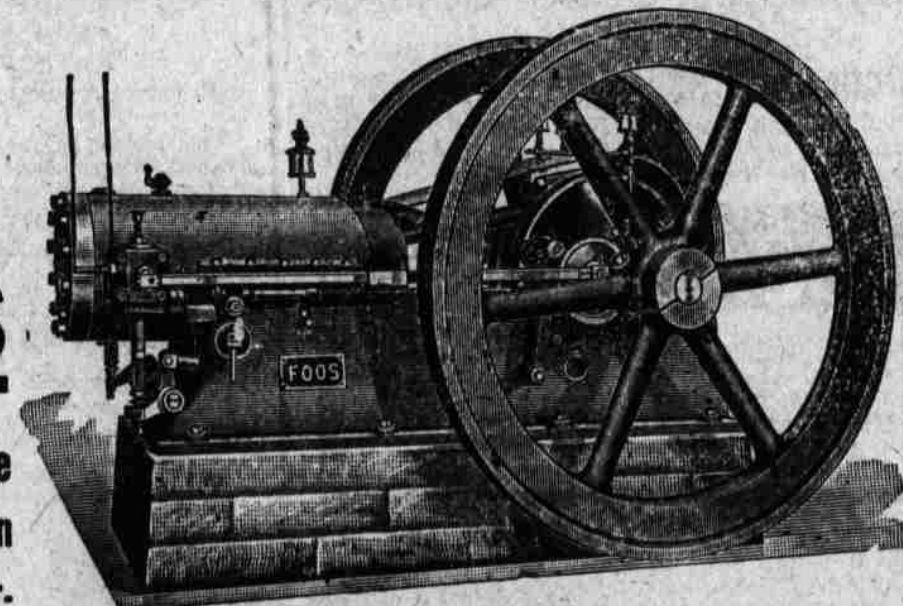
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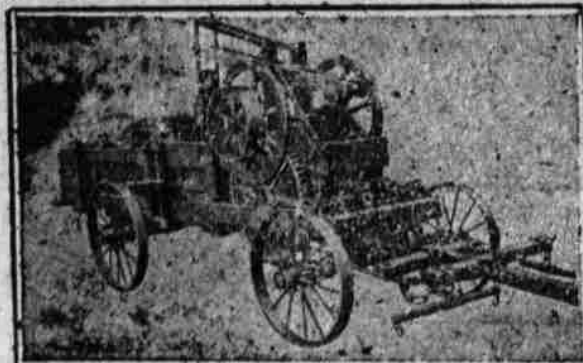
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