

## Choice Pork Comes Hogs Conditioned Well for Slaughter

Hogs Weighing from 200 to 250 Pounds Are Most Satisfactory

Getting hogs in good condition for slaughtering is one of the main points in successful butchering, said H. W. Taylor, extension swine specialist at State College. The best pork, he said, comes from hogs that are neither too young nor too old, too fat or too thin. Butcher hogs should be well finished. A well-finished hog weighing from 200 to 250 pounds produces the most satisfactory pork for curing on the farm. Smooth, evenly fleshed animals produce a better meat, and will cut up with less waste than coarse, rough, wrinkled and flabby ones.

They also have a more tender, finer textured product with the right proportion of fat and lean. Hogs that are gaining in weight are usually the healthiest and will make the best meat. However, the loss of a few pounds in shipping before butchering will not lower the quality of the meat. The muscles of a thin hog are tough. They lack the flavor and juiciness found in a well-marbled piece of meat. Extremely fat, heavy hogs cannot be converted into the best quality cured pork. Although hogs may be slaughtered at any age, meat from young pigs is watery and soft and does not have the flavor and keeping qualities of meat from animals a little older. Additional information on killing and curing hogs may be obtained from county agents or in extension folder No. 34, "Killing and Curing Meat on the Farm," which will be sent free upon application to the agricultural editor at State College.

## EROSION OF SOIL COSTS FARMERS \$60,000,000 A YEAR

Practice Reduces Yields of Crops and Abandonment Of Many Fields

It is costing North Carolina farmers \$60,000,000 a year to let their soil wash away. That is the estimated annual depreciation due to erosion and the resultant loss of fertility, gulying of fields, and silting of streams and reservoirs, said Dr. R. Y. Winters, director of the N. C. Agricultural Experiment Station. This has led to reduced crop yields, abandonment of many fields, and an increase in flood hazard and susceptibility to drought, he continued. The soil erosion service, the State College extension service, and the experiment station are working to remedy this situation, he stated, but they are handicapped by a lack of information about various conditions over the State. In seeking information that may be used in developing adequate programs for conserving and building up the soil, the experiment station is cooperating with the U. S. Department of Agriculture in making surveys and mapping soil conditions of the State. The experiment station has been classifying and evaluating soils, studying factors that cause erosion, and determining what uses various lands are suited for. But to date only the surface has been scratched, Dr. Winters declared. A great deal of work lies ahead. On many farms terracing is not adequate, he continued, and many are too small to permit drastic changes in the cropping system. Yet some adequate means of controlling erosion must be developed and put into practice. One of the main things, Dr. Winters pointed out, is to grow more soil conserving crops that will not only hold the soil in place when it rains, but which will also add more organic matter to the soil.

and cover by the planting of shrubs, legumes and grasses in gullied areas, galled spots and odd corners, the farmer in cooperation with the Soil Conservation Service and State College Extension Service not only helps to replenish the supply of wildlife but controls erosion on his farm. Cowpeas, soybeans, waste grains left after harvest, sorghums, millet, wild plum, mulberry, dewberry, rag weed, lespedeza, beggarweed, blue berries, huckleberries are among the food producing plants attractive to the bobwhite quail. Fourteen percent of the food of the bobwhite quail consists of animal life, including grasshoppers, weevils, locusts, chinchbugs, caterpillars, squash bugs, cucumber beetles and wireworms, said Becker. The bobwhite mates usually in May and lays from 6 to 20 eggs, which are hatched in 23 to 24 days. Soon after hatching the young are able to take care of themselves in their new environment, and if everything goes well with the first brood the female usually does not lay another set of eggs. While farmers have no control over the weather, Becker stated, they can provide the quail with food and cover, which will at the same time help to control soil erosion and build up the fertility of the soil as well as add beauty to the farm.

## Sees Prospect For Revival of AAA by Farm Department

Prediction Is Contrary To Statement by Henry Wallace, Secretary. Despite the opinion of Secretary Henry A. Wallace that there was a possibility of uncontrolled crop production next year, the prospect that the New Deal may seek to revive AAA principles appeared recently in Washington to have been given strength over the past week-end. While there was no official announcement of intentions, officials who deplored the death of AAA at the hands of the Supreme Court were believed to be highly gratified by the unanimity with which a meeting of farm leaders recently demanded a return to the original agricultural adjustment program. This development, combined with recent forecasts by the agriculture department that possible farm surpluses may lead to declining prices.

## Soil Conservation Is Aid To All Wild Life

Every farmer knows a bobwhite quail when he sees one, but few are thoroughly familiar with its food and breeding habits, its enemies and the diseases that thin out its numbers. George B. Becker, biologist of the Soil Conservation Service, says that 86 per cent of the food of the quail consists of waste grains and plant food. In providing quail and other desirable forms of wildlife with food

next year, was taken as an indication that the administration may make some new move along the lines of production control. The farm leaders had been called to Washington to talk over an administration proposal for federal crop insurance designed to bolster the present soil conservation program. The farm men were lukewarm in their discussion of this, relegating it to a distinctly secondary status. But they left a resolution with President Roosevelt's crop insurance committee calling for strengthening "of present programs" and asserting that no farm program could be "permanently effected" unless it included "means of controlling production" and "distribution of farm products."

## Tells Best Method To Corn Beet on the Farm

To corn beet on the farm cut the meat in five or six pound chunks and rub each piece with salt. It is then packed in a clean vessel of hard wood or stone ware and covered with a pickle made with one and one-half pounds of salt, and one ounce of salt peter, one-quarter pound of sugar or syrup, and one gallon of pure water. The meat will cure in about two weeks and should then be smoked lightly to improve the flavor. Dried beef is made by allowing the cured meat to hang for some time to dry out.

## Haywood Club Boys Sell Twelve Calves for \$742.34

Twelve beef calves sold at the recent Asheville Fat Cattle show by 4-H club members of Haywood County, brought \$742.34 plus \$23 in cash prizes.

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