

SOME FEEDING EXPERIMENTS

The greatest trouble the Florida farmer has is to select the best hog feeds from the many that can be raised in the State. The Experiment Station started a series of feeding tests in 1910 to determine the practical value of some of these feeds. From the resulting data it is hoped that farmers may select without delay and expense the crops which will supply the best and cheapest feeds.

The pigs in all of the experiments discussed in this bulletin were divided into lots as nearly equal in size and quality as possible. The weights at the beginning and the close of all of the feeding experiments are the average of three weighings taken on consecutive days.

All pigs used in the first ten experiments were Berkshires. These pigs were not all registered, but they were all eligible to registration. Those in experiment XI were a mixed lot of pigs. Five were Berkshires and the other 14 were by a Duroc-Jersey boar and out of Tamworth sows. Each lot contained both Berkshire and Duroc-Jersey-Tamworth crosses.

EXPERIMENT I

The first test was conducted with five Berkshire pigs. The test was begun January 29, 1910, and continued for fifty-one days, closing March 20, 1910. The object of this experiment was to test the value of corn (one part), velvet beans in the pod (one part), and Japanese cane (two parts by weight), for pork production. During the time the pigs were under observation, they were fed shelled corn and velvet beans in the pod, equal parts by weight. In addition, they were given two pounds of Japanese cane for each pound of corn fed. At the beginning of the test the five pigs averaged 118.6 pounds per head, and weighed altogether 593 pounds. At the end of the feeding test they weighed 775 pounds, making a gain of 182 pounds, with an average daily gain per head of 0.71 pounds.

The records show that after feeding the pigs for thirty days they weighed 704 pounds. From a practical standpoint they should have been sold at that time. When sold at the close of the test the buyer objected that the pigs were too fat to furnish the best quality of pork.