

Make A Profit On Pork

by Andy J. Bunn
Record swine production in the United States and Canada during the last half of 1970 has resulted in extremely low pork prices. Long-term forecasts do not foresee a return to the favorable prices that have been prevalent for the past five years.

In order to turn a profit, swine producers and the entire swine industry must keep pork production costs to a minimum.

The swine producer of the future will have a farrow-to-finish operation (either on one farm or as a partnership arrangement), will grow his own grain requirements, may grow his protein requirements, depending on economics, and by using a vitamin-mineral premix, will

process his own feed requirements on the farm. The biological cycle must be considered the basis for swine production.

There are a number of ways to improve returns and reduce production costs.

Breeding Stock:
High indexing boars, mating to good quality gilts or sows will result in high indexing offspring. A market hog indexing 105 rather than 95 will return an additional \$4 on a \$25 market. Top quality breeding stock is always a good investment.

Feeding:
Feed represents approximately 75 percent of the cost of producing a hog.

If you feed over 60 tons of feed annually, you can reduce feed costs by on-the-farm processing.

Gilts and sows, during gestation, require approximately five to six pounds of a 14 percent dry sow ration. Some producers overfeed during the gestation period which reduces sow performance and increases sow feed costs.

Ten pounds of ferrous sulfate mixed with 90 pounds of simplified starter meal can supply the iron requirements of a newborn pig at a fraction of the cost of most iron sources.

Swine Health:
Work closely with your local veterinarian in the area of disease prevention, diagnosis, and treatment.

Misuse and excessive amounts of medications and vitamins can increase production costs, without

an improvement in performance. Buildings and Equipment:

Expensive buildings and equipment do not ensure success in a swine operation. A good manager can make most systems work. Poor ventilation results in more swine stress than any other single factor.

Manure:
Liquid hog manure should be considered a valuable source of nutrients for crop production, worth approximately \$13 per thousand gallons. Oxidation ditches will reduce the nitrogen value of liquid manure by 50 percent.

Some swine producers have entirely eliminated the need for purchasing commercial

fertilizers by incorporating liquid manure into the soil when the corn crop is growing. Liquid manure should be considered a valuable by-product of swine production.

As long as the swine producer is able to keep production costs at a minimum and is willing to adapt to changes in technology, his chances of making profits are improved.

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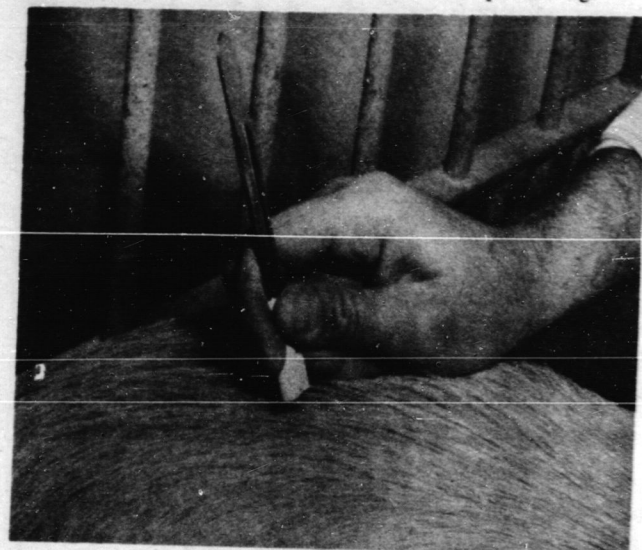
Total cost of education in Canada for 1970-71 is estimated to grow by 14 percent to \$7,635,000,000, according to School Progress magazine in a report based on the latest Dominion Bureau of Statistics estimates.

Despite modest growth in school population, the sharp rise results from growth concentrated in the more expensive educational institutions — high schools, colleges and universities. Fewer dropouts is a factor in the increase.

Average cost for each enrolment is up 12 percent — \$1,206 per student this year; \$1,080 last year.

Enrolment in elementary schools is increasing only marginally while secondary school enrolment goes up about four percent. In colleges and universities the increase is about 10 percent. The reduced dropout rate is revealed by the fact that the estimated secondary and post-secondary school growth is greater than expected on the basis of population age-group statistics.

First glimmerings of a slowdown in the expansion of schools and costs is seen in kindergarten, where enrolment shows a one percent decline to 355,800.



Back fat probing is a good indicator of hog quality. (ODAF Photo)

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Agricultural Technology Programs

The Jarvis Record, Thursday, March 11, 1971 — 5A

Tomorrow's agriculture will place heavy demands on the technical qualifications of those serving it.

The course programs offered by colleges of agricultural technology, sponsored by ODAF, provide the opportunity for young people to develop an understanding of themselves and their environment so that they can make a greater contribution to society through their interest in agriculture.

There are five colleges of agricultural technology in Ontario, located at Edgerton, Centralia, Kemptville, New Liskeard and Ontario Agricultural College, University of Guelph, now offering two-year courses leading to a diploma in agriculture.

All colleges of agricultural technology offer courses in agriculture, with emphasis on business management, which lead toward a diploma in agriculture.

Specialization is possible in some of the colleges. Centralia offers a diploma program in animal health technology which provides technically trained personnel for the veterinary profession, government agencies and laboratories.

Edgerton introduced an agricultural laboratory course in 1970 for persons wishing to work as technicians or technologists in industry or the government. In 1971 an agricultural secretary's program is to be offered on limited entrance bases to provide training for women.

Such courses are generally of a very practical nature and require that a student takes complete control of this project. Such a program is carried on outside of regular class time. These courses are approved only when requested by the student. The staff of the college acts only as a consultant in such a project.

The Kemptville College operates under a trimester system for both agriculture

and home economics. This allows new students to enrol in courses at the beginning of any one semester in January, May or September.

The University of Guelph, with the support of the Ontario Department of Agriculture and Food, offers the opportunity of independent study by correspondence to anyone interested in furthering his education.

Young people are always interested as to the type of employment such a college program will lead to upon graduation. A diploma or degree from any college will not guarantee employment upon achievement, but it will help to open doors to many varied types of work.

To answer specifically the question raised "What do two-year graduates in agriculture do?" the following taken from a report of one of the colleges demonstrates the type of opportunity available to graduates from all colleges.

"After graduation in 1970 from the two-year diploma program in agriculture, half the students found employment in the agricultural industry outside of farming.

The largest number from this group is working in the farm machinery business, others are employed in feed, fertilizer, seed, artificial insemination, and chemical industries serving agriculture. Significant numbers found employment in nursery and landscape business, in government extension and as technicians. Education at the two-year level in

agriculture is suited to a wide range of employment opportunities."

The home economics course at two colleges, Centralia and Kemptville, provides for training in foods and nutrition, clothing and textiles, interior design, homemaking and related subjects.

Graduates from the home economics course find challenging and rewarding employment in hospitals, restaurants and industrial plants as food supervisors and technicians; in department stores and industries as interior decorators; fashion consultants, textile technicians and sales personnel; in social, health and welfare agencies.

The Ontario Agricultural College, University of Guelph, offers a four-year degree program in agriculture which leads to the degree of Bachelor of Science in Agriculture BSc (Agr.). Although the Ontario Department of Agriculture and Food is not responsible for the educational programs at the University of Guelph, it is most interested in the training of young people for careers in agriculture.

The application of the knowledge of the biological sciences to the production of food for human consumption, the marketing and distribution of agricultural products, and the adaptation of man to his environment, are basic to the philosophy of the educational program of the

four year professional degree BSc (Agr.).

The course program is a combination of a basic background in the physical, biological, and social sciences with specialization in one of a number of applied biological science areas or agricultural economics and business.

Careers in agriculture for the degree graduate have encompassed a wide range of endeavour in the past and will become even broader in scope in the future. The future for graduates in agriculture was never better. Any student who has an interest in biology and its application as a means of improving man's existence

on earth will find a rewarding career in the field of agricultural science. Campus life provides a rewarding experience. Graduates say there is nothing like the friendships derived from the association with classmates and staff. Excellent recreational facilities, organized student and club activities, social programs and personal communication between students and staff as well as formal discussions make the two years a most rewarding experience.

For information on college programs contact personnel of your county office of the Ontario Department of Agriculture and Food.

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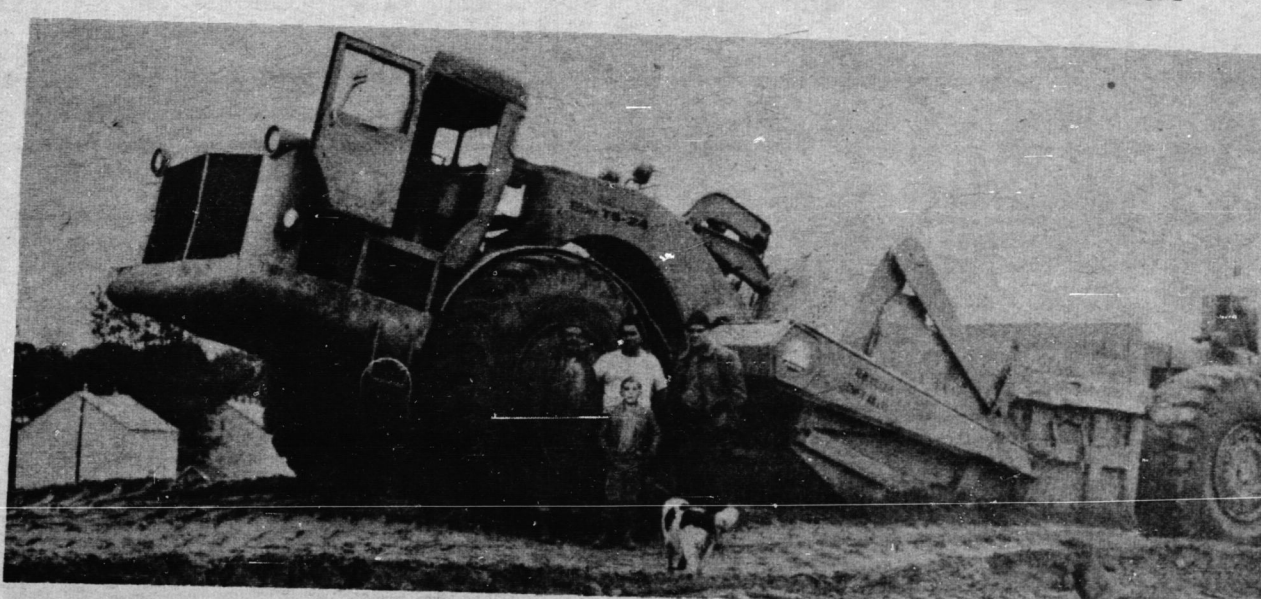
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Students studying the business of agriculture at one of Ontario's technical colleges. (ODAF Photo)

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