
 * Mimeograph Paper January *
 * No. 73 GEORGIA COASTAL PLAIN EXPERIMENT STATION 1951 *
 * Tifton, Georgia *
 * *
 * Information based on results of practical experiments in *
 * agriculture for press release and distribution to farmers *
 * *

YEAR-ROUND MANAGEMENT OF FOUR BROOD SOWS

This plan for four brood sows is based on (1) a system of managing sows considered best from the standpoint of farrowing, feed production, marketing, and internal parasite control for commercial hog production in the Georgia Coastal Plain and (2) feed requirements found necessary from experimental studies at this Station. The sows are credited with two litters of six pigs each weaned and marketed annually, or a total of 48 pigs marketed. This unit was selected since many farms can only support four sows and their off-spring. The plan suggested is for 25 acres of well drained land divided into four 6-acre lots (designated as lots 1, 2, 3, and 4) and one 1-acre lot. The 1 acre provides a farrowing lot.

Oats and corn were used for grain with yields of 25 and 40 bushels per acre, respectively, being grown. Grazing crops were planted in the farrowing lot. The ingredients for the protein and mineral supplements fed were purchased. The supplement used for these animals was 40 parts tankage, 25 parts peanut meal, 25 parts soybean meal, and 10 parts mineral mixture. The mineral mixture was equal parts of salt, steamed bonemeal, and ground limestone.

The following plan can be duplicated; however, it should be used primarily as a guide. It is based on a specific number of animals that were fed and managed well. The dates listed were adhered to. Changes in crop yields, pig numbers, management, and other factors can alter the plan.

Management of Sows

A. Fall Litters

1. Farrow approximately September 1. Wean November 1.
2. Plant cattail millet in farrowing lot 4 to 5 weeks before farrowing.
3. Move sows to farrowing lot 4 to 5 days before farrowing date.
4. Feed sows lightly just before and after farrowing and liberally until weaning.
5. Creep feed pigs (same ration fed sows) beginning 3 weeks of age.
6. Average daily ration allotted each sow - 10 pounds of shelled corn and 2 pounds of protein supplement.

B. Fall Breeding

1. Breed sows and gilts to farrow in 21-day period.
2. Breed gilts October 20 to November 10.
3. Sows should breed by November 10.
4. Control breed and record dates.

C. Fall and Winter Gestation

1. Glean fields until grazing ready (approximately December 15).
2. Place sows on grazing as early as possible. (Oats planted October 1 in Lot 2 - divide 6 acres with temporary fence giving sows 2 acres.)
3. Feed one-half pound of protein supplement and 3 to 4 pounds of shelled corn per sow each daily during gestation.
4. Return sows to farrowing lot by 110th day of gestation.

D. Spring Litters

1. Farrow approximately March 1. Wean May 1.
2. Plant pasture (oats or oats and crimson clover) in farrowing lot immediately after fall weaning.
3. Follow plan for fall pigs.

E. Spring Breeding

1. Follow fall breeding plans.
2. Breed gilts April 20 to May 10 - sows by May 10.

F. Spring-Summer Gestation

1. Hog-off oats following breeding (same 2 acres grazed during winter).
2. Feed one-half pound of protein supplement per sow daily.
3. When oats completely hogged-off feed approximately 3 pounds of shelled corn per sow daily (along with one-half pound supplement) if necessary to condition sows.

Management of Pigs

A. Spring Litters

1. Wean May 1. Hold in lot and continue on creep ration until oats are ready to hog-off.
2. May 15 to July 15, hog-off oats. Feed three-fourths pound protein supplement per pig daily. Hog-off 4 acres oats - Lot 2.
3. July 15 to approximately September 20, hog-off early corn varieties. Self-feed protein supplement. Hog-off 6 acres corn - Lot 3.
4. Pigs marketed in late August, September, and early October.
5. Begin hogging-off oats and corn when crops pass through dough stage.
6. If harvested corn (previous year's crop) is available feed to pigs hogging-off oats.

B. Fall Litters

1. Wean November 1.
2. Hog-off corn (Lot 4) from weaning until approximately February 1. Self-feed protein supplement.
3. From February 1 to market weights, either finish in dry lot or on pasture. Self-feed harvested corn and protein supplement.
4. Market in March and April.

