

# Speaking of the World's Shortage of Meats and Fats

Calvin J. Huson, Director of the Bureau of Production of the State Food Commission, speaking of the world's shortage of meats and fats, said:

"There is no quicker way of increasing the supply of meats and fats than by raising pigs. This month every brood sow and suitable gilt should be bred to a good boar. The result will be litters of pigs next May which by November, provided they have proper care and feed, will produce thousands of pounds of pork which at present prices will be worth more than \$300 per ton.

"No intelligent farmer need be told that pork production under present conditions presents an attractive proposition. One or more brood sows on practically every New York State farm will prove a safe and profitable investment to the owner or occupant. They can be grown and maintained in part on pasturage and forage crops and the by-products of the farm that might otherwise be wasted.

"Every farmer who will increase his production of pork the coming season will be exercising good business judgment and at the same time rendering a patriotic service by adding to the country's supply of meats and fats.

"The production of pork, however, ought not to be confined to the farm alone. Most everyone can recall the good old days when many residents of villages kept a pig or two in their backyards--down at the end of the garden--utilizing table scraps, and raising them at comparatively small expense. In the Fall these animals were butchered and furnished the family's winter supply of ham, of bacon, sausage, head-cheese and lard.

"I believe", said Director Huson, "that a large amount of household garbage now going to waste in the villages might be profitably fed to the family pig, as was the custom in the past. A large number of pigs in the aggregate might be economically and profitably raised in this manner. They should of course be kept under absolutely sanitary conditions and surroundings.

"There are more than one thousand villages and hamlets in this State and if there could be only fifty pigs raised in each it would increase the swine population of the State by 50,000. Each of these porkers could easily be brought up to 150 pounds weight at from six to seven months of age, thus adding 7,500,000 pounds to the State's food supply, and of the value of at least \$1,000,000.

"A recent act of the legislature gave village trustees authority to prohibit by ordinance the keeping of swine within corporate limits. A late inquiry conducted by the Bureau of Production of the State Food Commission discloses the fact that less than a score of the villages of the State have adopted such ordinances, and in one or two instances such ordinances have already been suspended during the period of the war and it is to be hoped that the other villages having prohibitory ordinances will follow this example. I hope that we may again see the 'family pig' contentedly putting on fat in the pen on some village lots the coming season."

A message from Calvin J. Huson, Director of the Bureau of Production of the State Food Commission, encouraging both farmers and non-farmers to raise pigs, believing that they were the answer to the country's shortage of meats and fats.

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