

Hog Production—As stated previously, Grant county has long been famed for its production of hogs. It is therefore quite logical that much emphasis was put upon the swine project by the Extension agents of this period in Grant County's history.

First mention of a demonstration in the area of swine production was in 1922 when a "cost of production" demonstration was conducted. The purpose was to determine the cost of raising a pound of pork on the farms of participating Grant County pork raisers and then to make comparisons with similar findings in other counties. "If some farmers produce pork any cheaper than others, and in case they do, their methods will be investigated and published, so that anyone seeing fit, can try them in order that pork might be produced as cheap as possible."

In 1923, thirty-three Grant County swine litters were entered in the Wisconsin ton-litter contest. Two of these competed in the "state round-up" in October and placed third and fourth.

Earliest mention of Grant county swine breeders competing in the "carload" hog division of the International Livestock Show was made in 1925. Mention of participation is made almost each succeeding year with noteworthy winnings listed as follows: Both in 1927 and in 1928 a total of four carloads were shown, one carload placing second each year. In 1929, Grant County had the grand champion carload. In 1930, eight carloads showed, with Gus Kuenster of Glen Haven, placing third. In 1931, Leonard Kalt of Glen Haven won a first on his carload of hogs.

Another contest of note was the "state pork production contest." In 1929, Gus Kuenster won this contest by "having produced more pounds of pork per brood sow in six months than any other contestant having more than twelve sows." (139 pigs from nineteen sows averaged 193 pounds, or an average weight per litter of 1412 pounds.)

Further mention is made of this particular contest in both 1930 and 1931. In 1930, Grant County won both a first and a second place, with three county herds competing. The Grant

County Farm placed second "having produced 1628 pounds of pork per litter in 180 days." In 1931, Thomas Holmes of Lancaster won the small litter class, Leonard Pleumer of Potosi won the class of eight to eleven sows and St. Clara's Academy of Sinsinawa won the larger class.

The advent of the McLean county system of swine sanitation in the early twenties accounted for much emphasis being put upon it by the Grant County agent during this period. Yearly goals for the number of swine breeders to come under this system of good management in the raising of hogs were set by the county agent and the county agricultural committee. In 1926, it was estimated that twenty breeders in the county had adopted the system, and by 1930 between seventy and 100. The McLean county system being a proven method in the prevention of disease and parasites of swine, it is undoubtedly true that much benefit was realized to the Grant County swine breeder through its adoption by the swine breeders of this period.