

GOOD HOG PASTURES

NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY



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Cheaper Gains Faster Gains

CENTRAL

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- Good pasture can furnish your hogs up to 50 percent of protein concentrate they need.
- One acre of good hog pasture saves 1,000 pounds of corn and 500 pounds of tankage.
- Pasture is the best source of certain vitamins and minerals essential to rapid growth.
- Pasture increases the milk output of brood sows.
- Pasture rotation helps your hog sanitation program.

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EXTENSION SERVICE

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USE THIS CALENDAR TO PLAN YOUR HOG PASTURE

CROP	DATE OF SEEDING	METHOD OF SEEDING	SEED PER ACRE	TIME FROM SEEDING TO GRAZING	GRAZING PERIOD	REMARKS
PERMANENT						
Alfalfa and grass mixture	Early spring	Grain drill	4 to 5 lbs. of alfalfa and 8 to 10 lbs. of grasses	One year	All season, starting about May 1.	Earlier grazing and better control of weeds than alfalfa alone.
Alfalfa	Early spring	Grain drill	10 lbs.	One year	All season, but let alfalfa get up about four inches.	Rotating 2 or more pastures will supply better pasture and aid sanitation.
ANNUAL						
Winter rye (fall seeded)	About Sept. 1 when moisture permits	Grain drill	1 to 1-1/2 bu. per acre.	May provide late fall grazing in favorable years.	About May 1 to July	Provides early spring pasture.
Winter wheat or rye (spring seeded)	April - as early as possible.	Grain drill	1 to 1-1/2 bu. per acre.	6 to 8 weeks.	Rest of season under good conditions.	Better pasture than spring grains. Usually does not head out; stays greener.
Rape and oats	April	Grain drill	1 to 1-1/4 bu. oats 6 to 8 lbs. dwarf Essex rape, mixed together.	6 to 8 weeks.	Rest of season if not over grazed.	Rape is one of best annual pastures for swine. Will stand light frost and provide late fall pasture.
Corn	Latter part of May	Corn planter in rows or checked.	7 to 10 lbs. per acre.	10 weeks for forage and ripe grain.	4 to 6 weeks.	Hogs turned into corn early can benefit from the green forage.
Sudan grass	About June 1 when soil is warm	Grain drill or broadcast and harrow	20 to 25 lbs. per acre	4 to 6 weeks	4 to 10 weeks	Emergency pasture. not plant too early. Possible danger of prussic acid poison.

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HOG FEEDING ON PASTURE

● Grain - Self feed corn, barley or corn and oats at the rate of 1 to 1-1/2 pounds per 100 pounds of live weight each day.

● Protein supplement - Even on good pasture it may pay to feed protein supplement to hogs before they reach 100 pounds in weight. Skim milk and tankage are excellent sources of animal protein.

● Shade and Shelter - Certain types of hog houses on skids can be opened to provide shade with good air circulation. Move these houses periodically so the hogs will make the best use of the pasture. Use poles, branches and straw for temporary shade. Remember, the rate of gain drops off rapidly when temperatures exceed 80 degrees.

● Water - About 70 percent of a pig's body is water. Hogs need about 70 gallons of water plus feed to produce 100 pounds of pork.

● Use an automatic waterer that is movable. Move the waterer regularly or place it on a platform to prevent excessive digging or wallowing by the hogs.

● Salt - Feed a trace mineral salt, free choice. In addition to ordinary salt, it contains cobalt, copper, iron, iodine and manganese.

PASTURE MANAGEMENT

◆ Carrying capacity - Pasture 15 to 20 hogs per acre. There are several factors such as rainfall and soil fertility that will vary the carrying capacity of pastures up or down from this average.

◆ Grazing - Allow plants to reach at least 4 inches in height before letting your hogs on the pasture.

◆ Clipping - Legumes especially should be clipped when hogs are unable to keep it from blooming. This encourages new tender growth.

◆ Rotating - For healthy hogs, change pastures each year. Cross fence permanent pastures and rotate your hogs onto each section.