

Breeds and Types

By the middle 1850's improved hogs were being introduced into Iowa. The reports of the first two State Fairs, in 1854 and 1855, do not mention any specific breed, but by 1856 such names as Suffolk, Cheshire, Essex, Grazier, Poland China, and Berkshire begin to appear. It is believed that the first of the improved breeds to be brought into Iowa was the Berkshire. By the 90's, M. K. Prine of Oskaloosa was one of the leading breeders. He was followed by C. F. Curtiss of Ames, who for many years maintained the leading herd in Iowa. The Berkshire continues to be popular in Iowa for cross breeding because it improves quality and early maturity.

The Poland China was brought into Iowa about the same time as the Berkshire, and was the leading breed until the 90's. The original Poland China type — large and coarse — was developed in Ohio. Through crossing with the Berkshire, and by judicious selection, a quicker maturing type of Poland was developed which prevailed until the 1900's. Breeders then realized that the Duroc Jersey and the Chester White were beginning to surpass the Polands, largely because the latter had developed into a small "cob roller" type

of hog. The boar "Chief Perfection 2nd," farrowed in 1896, and an outstanding example of the small type, was sold at one time for over \$40,000 in breeding privileges; twenty breeders bought interests at \$2,000 each.

During the 90's Peter Mouw of Orange City developed what is known as the Big Type Poland, but producers did not at first take to it. About 1910, however, the Big Type craze really got under way and continued so into the mid-twenties. During this period many of the Big Type Poland boars sold for as high as \$10,000 each.

The American Poland China Record Association, organized at Cedar Rapids in January, 1878, was one of the first swine associations to be formed. John Gilmore of Vinton, who served as secretary for some time, is credited with being the "father of the American Poland China Record." S. A. Knapp, W. J. Swallow, and E. C. Forest were early breeders of Polands in Iowa.

During the 80's the Duroc Jersey made great progress in Iowa, and in the following decade two leading Duroc Jersey families and blood lines were developed. One of the most noted sires in Duroc history was the boar "Pathfinder," owned by Hanks and Bishop of New London. In the boom period following World War I, a sale of sows bred to "Pathfinder" averaged close to \$2,000 per head. W. M. Holmes, a red hog breeder of Saratoga, New York, moved to Grinnell about 1880

and continued to breed Duroc Jersey hogs under the firm name of his son, C. H. Holmes. Some of the other names conspicuous in early Iowa history of the breed are J. D. Waltemeyer of Melbourne, the Viponds, the Studers, Wellendorf of Algona, and Satres of Stanhope.

The Chester White breed came into Iowa during the latter half of the nineteenth century, but did not make exceptional progress until about 1910. In 1914 and 1915 this breed outnumbered any shown at the Iowa State Fair. Eight hundred head were shown at Des Moines in 1915. Some of the earliest improvers of the breed, who began about 1900, were F. D. Humbert of Nashua, F. P. White of New Hampton, and William Hoover of Oskaloosa.

The Hampshire began its rise in popularity in Iowa about 1910. It is reported that in 1906 only eight or ten Iowa farmers owned Hampshires, but by January 1, 1915, Iowa had become the leading Hampshire state, with 1,600 purebred herds. Hampshires today rank with the Durocs as one of the top if not the top breed in Iowa. Clayton Messenger, H. D. DeKalb, Russell Yates, and F. F. Silver of Wickfield Farms at Cantril were some of the earlier breeders. Rollie Pemberton, now Secretary of the Hampshire Registry Association, has also done much to further the breed.

The Spotted Poland China made its greatest progress in Iowa between 1910 and 1920. At the

Iowa State Fair in 1924 there were more Spotted Poland China hogs shown than any other breed. They rank third in popularity in Iowa.

The Hereford, one of the newer breeds, first appeared at the Iowa State Fair in 1931, and a class was provided for the breed in 1939. John C. Schulte of Norway, Harris Sellers, Jr. of Chariton, and Monroe D. Yoder of Kalona are some of the earlier promoters of the Hereford in Iowa.

The foregoing breeds are primarily of the lard type. There are two breeds, the Yorkshire and Tamworth, which are of the bacon type. The Yorkshire was first brought to Iowa by John Morrell & Company of Ottumwa. Sows of the breed were distributed within their trade territory, and Morrells paid a premium for purebred Yorkshires or those of high grade. In 1910 Morrells, Sinclair & Company of Cedar Rapids, and Armour & Company of Chicago cooperated with the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad in running "The Breakfast Bacon Special." This train had for its purpose the furthering of the Yorkshire breed, and 271 meeting stops were made throughout the Midwest. This breed has had its ups and downs in Iowa over the years. Whenever lard has been low in price, as it has a number of times during the past fifty years, Iowa farmers have shifted to the leaner Yorkshire. At present the Yorkshire is on the upswing.

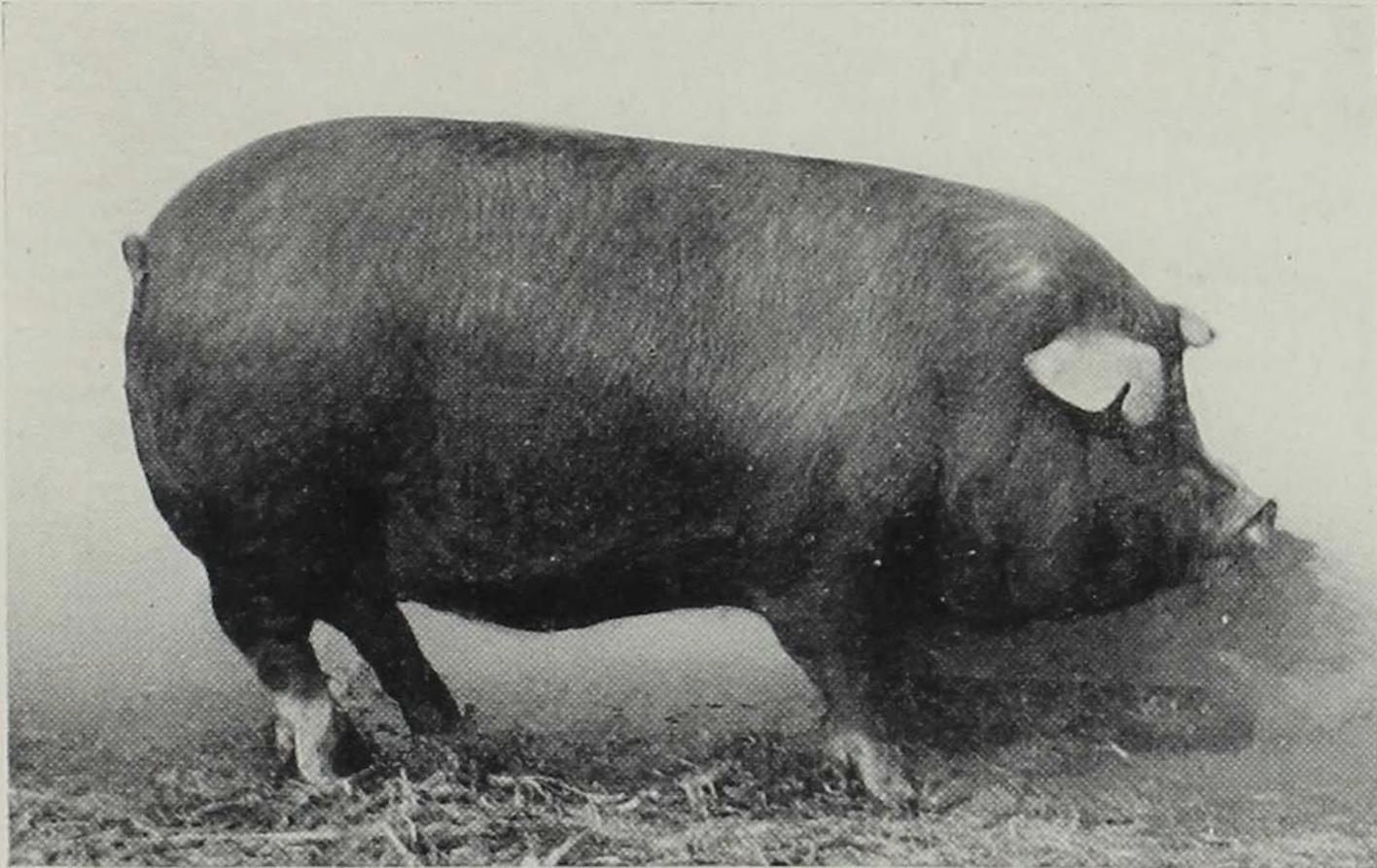
The other bacon breed, the Tamworth, was

brought into Iowa just before 1900. Johnson County has since led in Tamworth breeds, while Washington County is also heavily populated with this type. Some early Iowa breeders were A. E. Augustine of Oskaloosa and I. M. Reed of Rose Hill, and D. W. Overholt, C. C. Roup, E. R. Thomas, J. W. Justice, and Propst Brothers of near Iowa City. The Tamworth, like the Yorkshire, is used primarily for crossing with the lard breeds.

Breeds of swine are continually shifting in their popularity, depending much upon the aggressiveness of the various breed associations and the trends of demand as to pork products. There have been breeds such as the Essex, Cheshire, Victoria, Suffolk, and Mulefoot which at one time were quite numerous in Iowa; today they are practically all extinct. In 1887 the Victoria hog, a white animal, led all breeds at the Iowa State Fair.

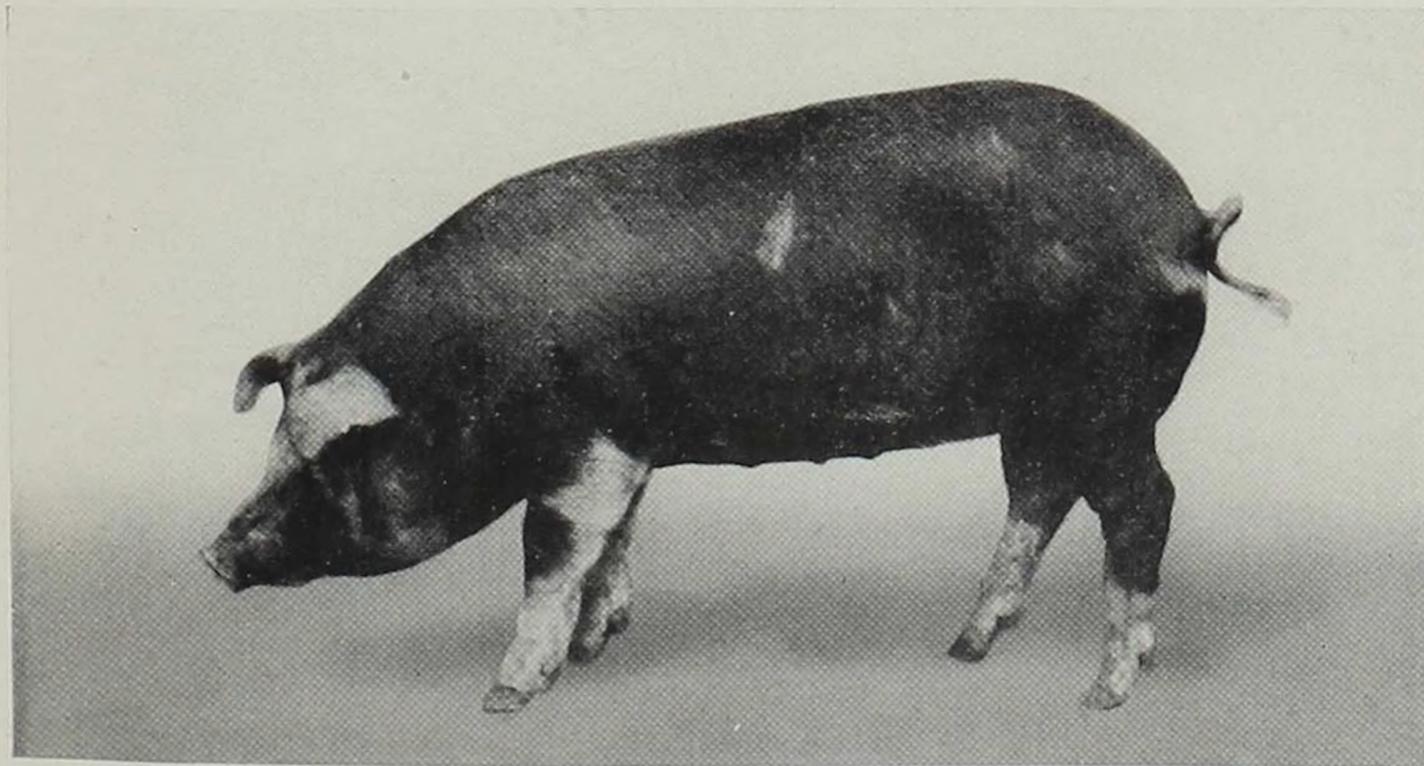
Some new breeds, most of which have been developed outside the state, are being used to a considerable extent by market hog producers in Iowa. The Hamprace, Minnesota Number I and Number II, Beltsville Number I, Maryland Number I, the Landrace, and possibly others are being used primarily for crossing purposes in market hog production. These breeds are all of a leaner type than the lard breeds.

The Iowa Swine Producers Association was created by legislative action in 1937. The duties



A SMALL TYPE MARKET PIG

Such pigs are finished at light weights but have a high lard yield at common market weights.



A LARGE, OR RANGY-TYPE, MARKET PIG

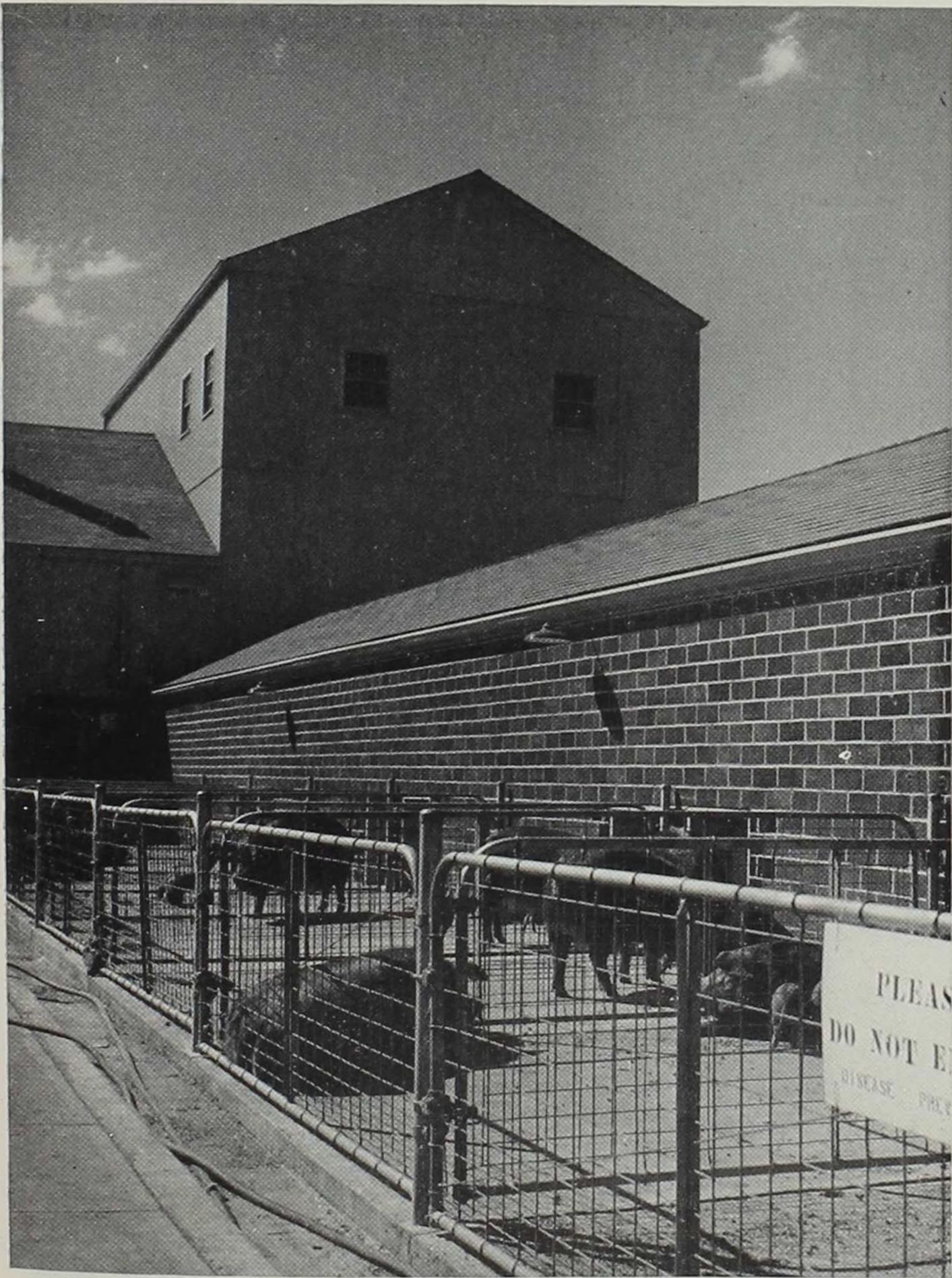
Such pigs must be carried to rather heavy weight to have sufficient finish.



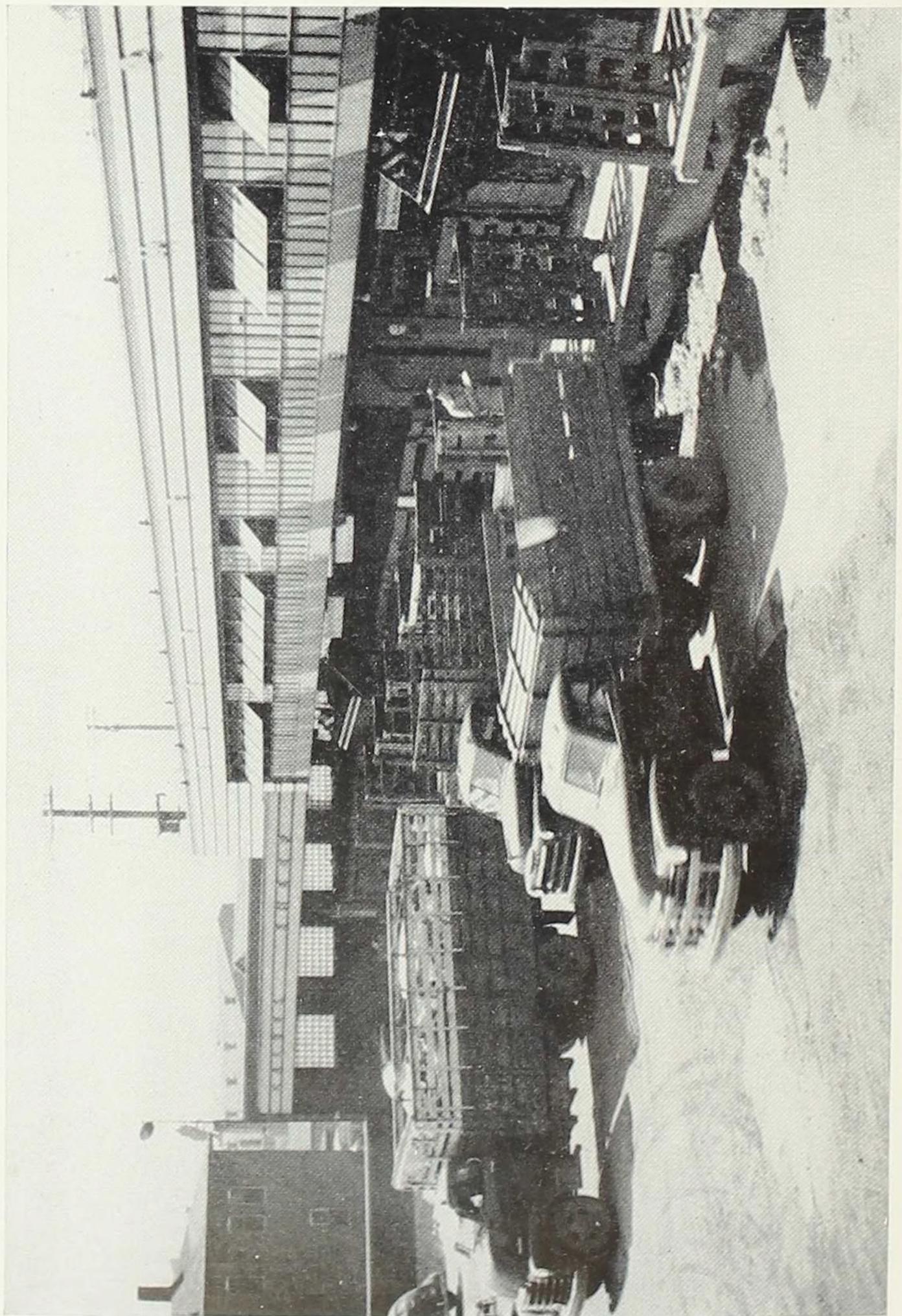
Hog Feeding in Early Days



Modern Hog Raising in Wright County



Iowa State College New Swine Nutrition Laboratory



Unloading Hogs at a Modern Iowa Packing Plant

and objectives are: (1) To promote the Iowa swine industry. (2) To aid in the orderly marketing of swine. (3) To carry on educational work to increase consumption and improve the processing of pork and its products. (4) To make an annual report of its proceedings and expenditures to the Secretary of Agriculture.

In the early establishment of most all the so-called purebred hogs, crossing of breeds of different types was practised. In fact most of the purebreds were derived by crossing. Even in the twenties some cross breeding was practiced in several of Iowa's most popular breeds. Since hog raisers found that in general the results from crossing were beneficial, the practice has become very widely used in Iowa in the production of market hogs. The three forms followed are: (1) breed upon breed; (2) back crossing, alternating in the use of boars from two unrelated breeds; (3) the three-way cross where boars of three different breeds are used consecutively in order upon the gilts produced by the previously used boar.

Cross breeding in Iowa received its greatest impetus by the experimental work conducted at Iowa State College by Lloyd Jones in 1916, by the late John M. Evvard in 1920, and by Professor Shearer and co-workers in 1926. Prompted by the results obtained by experimentalists in hybrid corn, workers at the Iowa Agricultural Experiment Station began in the early 1930's to develop

inbred lines of swine from purebred Poland Chinas. In 1934 the Danish Landrace was added. This work later came under the direction of the Regional Swine Breeding Laboratory at Ames and embraced the activities of several state experiment stations, particularly in the Midwest. Dr. W. A. Craft of Ames is now in charge of this field laboratory. The crosses of some of the inbred lines appear to have possibilities in commercial pork production.

This inbreeding work conducted by the college and later on by commercial organizations led to the production of so-called hybrid hogs. The Farmers Hybrid Company of Hampton, a pioneer in this field of breeding, began selling hybrid boars in 1945. Since that time several other companies have developed the same kind of enterprise.

By selection within the breeds and by a crossbreeding program, Iowa swine producers are today endeavoring to produce more of a meat type hog. Within the breeds there is also found a difference in type. Swine producers can change the type of hog they produce rather quickly because of the early maturity of the animal. Experiences with the short chunky swine showed that this type was not prolific and yielded cuts of meat which proved unsatisfactory to the consumer. The market for lard has dwindled to an extent that the less fat a hog carries the more he is worth.

The big extreme rangy type followed the short

chunky type. This hog reached heavy weights but proved too slow in maturing and did not carry enough finish at popular weights of 215 to 240 pounds. The cuts of meat also proved to be too heavy for consumer demand. Therefore swine producers in the late 1920's sought to produce a hog in type somewhere between the two extremes. After years of selection, and through educational programs conducted by Iowa State College in cooperation with the packing companies of the state, a "middle of the road" type of hog has emerged. This type has further been encouraged and exemplified by numerous barrow shows conducted at Cedar Rapids, Ottumwa, Davenport, and the Iowa State Fair. Iowa swine producers have had experience with hog types to the extent that they know quite well what will do the best for them, and it is safe to say that on Iowa farms today the type of hog being raised is the best in Iowa's hog raising history.

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