

HIGH QUALITY HOGS EXHIBITED AT THE FAIR

By LAWRENCE MORRIS, '25

Constructive Plans of Breeding Followed by Salt River Valley Breeders Have Produced Some Exceptionally Fine Quality Individuals

The hog exhibit at the State Fair this fall was good, considering the minor part hogs play in the livestock industry of Arizona at the present time. Due to the high price of concentrates and the distance from market, hog raising on a commercial basis has never been developed to any great extent in our state.

The hogs at the Fair came from the herds of a few men who make hog raising a hobby and business. The exhibits were not overly large, but some fine individuals were shown. The animals shown gave the people who saw them the idea that only the best quality is being raised in this section of the country.

All of the breeds shown this year were from breeders in and around Phoenix. Omar A. McCollough of Mesa had an exceptionally good showing of big type Poland Chinas. He has followed a constructive plan of breeding that has given him a herd of fine animals, and his show stuff was a high compliment to his ability in this direction. He entered six Polands in the hog competition and won five prizes.

One of his entries, a sow, Mc's Best 345896, won the grand championship. Without a doubt this sow would hold her own with the best animals shown in the large hog shows of the middle-west. This same sow won the grand championship last year when showing as a junior yearling. Mr. McCollough also showed a boar that won the grand championship in his class.

This breeder of big type Polands got his education in hogs in Missouri and Iowa where hogs are hogs. He imports new blood from the best herds in that section to keep up his standard.

Mr. Crouse, of Glendale, had some fine pigs on display and deserves due credit for the high class animals he is breeding.

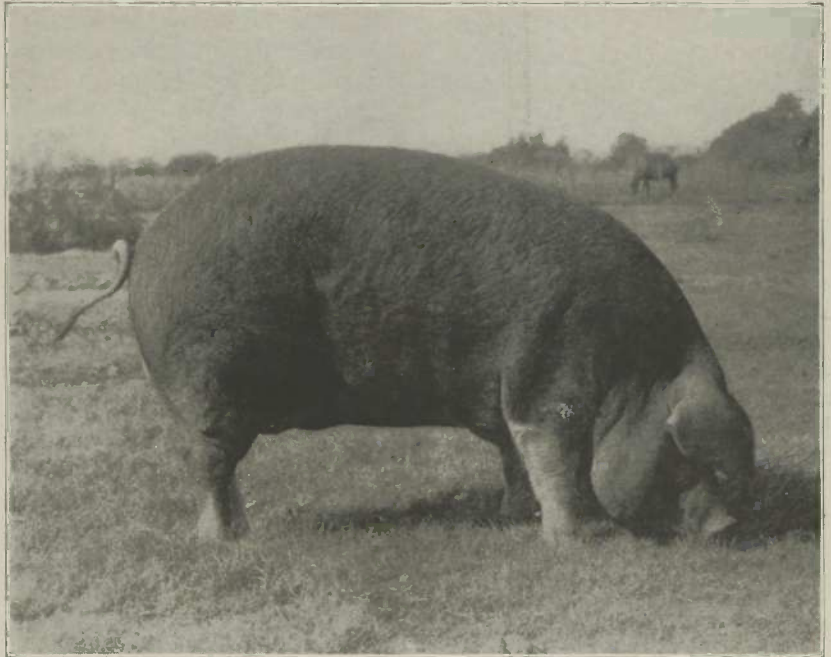
The Duroc Jersey breed had the largest number of entries at the fair. Many representative animals were shown. Probably the best showing was made by the herd from the U. S. Indian School at Phoenix. The Tempe Normal School also had some fine

pigs and took several premiums in this class. Kressel Brothers of Glendale had quite a few Durocs in the pens and won their share of the premiums.

The only other breed shown was Ohio Improved Chester Whites. Some

are endeavoring to get a foothold and popularize the swine industry here need encouragement in keeping up their good work. They are on the right track when pushing forward good hogs.

The sheep exhibit this year was



Mc's Best No. 345896, Grand Championship Sow, owned by Omar A. McCollough at Mesa, Arizona.

very good representatives of this breed were shown by two exhibitors.

All in all, the hog showing made up in quality what it lacked in quantity. All of the hogs in the exhibit pens showed careful breeding. Although hog raising is a negligible factor in Arizona agriculture, the breeders who

small compared to other years. It needs bolstering up. The sheep industry is coming to the front fast and is destined to take its place among the leading industries of the state, according to some of our best informed livestock men.

SOIL ANALYSIS NOT OF VALUE

A chemical examination of the soil reveals little evidence as to the proper fertilizer or cropping system to be followed to secure maximum production, say the soil specialists of the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station at Geneva, where this subject has been given much consideration. The soil is so complex chemically, say these specialists, that a random sample taken by an inexperienced person is practically worthless as a basis for predicting what a given

soil will or will not do. Chemical analysis also shows only the total amount of plant food present without giving an accurate estimate of the amount available to the growing crop.

For these reasons and because experience and investigation have revealed that nothing helpful can come such analysis, the station soil men decline to analyse samples of soils sent in by farmers and others who expect to use the chemical tests as a basis for fertilizer or cropping practice.