



Sheep in 1896

Four Decades Of Animal Husbandry

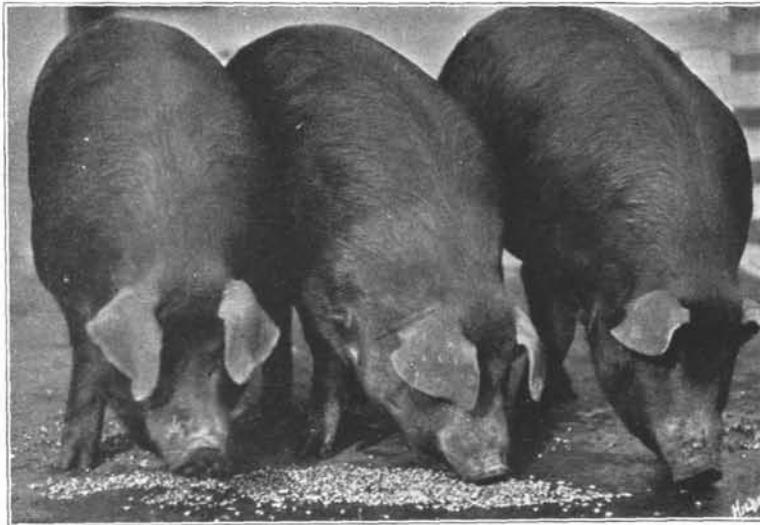
By R. J. Christgau

Concurrent with the establishment of the experiment station in 1895 began the foundation work in animal husbandry. One of the first buildings to be constructed was a barn for horses and cattle which was located just south of where Stephens Hall now stands. This was completed in 1896, destroyed by lightning in 1897, and rebuilt the same year. The first superintendent, Mr. T. A. Hoverstad, was keenly interested in promoting all kinds of livestock, and among his first efforts was to assist in organization of creameries and cheese factories throughout the Valley. The Red River Valley Dairymen's association was organized in 1903 largely as a result of his work. Although the early work was largely promotion and extension, some experimental projects are reported. Pasture trials for sheep and hogs were conducted, with some work being done with horse feeding rations.

When the School was established in 1906, under the supervision of Wm. Robertson, purebred sires headed all herds and flocks, which consisted of Holstein, Guernsey and Shorthorn cattle, Shropshire sheep, Duroc Jersey hogs and Percheron horses. At that time the primary objective was herd and flock improvement through a gradual grading up process, with an equal emphasis in providing animals for classroom work for the school students.

In 1911 a consistent experimental program was started under the direction of Supt. C. G. Selvig, while renewed emphasis was given to all lines of animal husbandry extension work. Station herds and flocks were used for demonstration and judging work in connection with the first annual Winter Shows in 1910, held at the school during the early years.

In 1915 the Red River Valley Livestock Breeders' Association was organized with Mr. Wm. Dietrich, animal husbandman at the station, as secretary. In 1917 the first



International Champion Barrows 1923

