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### Boys' and Girls' Club Work : Sow-Litter Club

Cooperative Extension South Dakota State University

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January 1922.

# BOYS' and GIRLS' CLUB WORK

## SOW-LITTER CLUB

### EXTENSION SERVICE

South Dakota State College of Agriculture and  
Mechanic Arts and U. S. Department  
of Agriculture Cooperating.

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Prepared by  
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## THE SOW-LITTER CLUB

The demand for improved types of hogs has never been greater than it is today. The packers who must meet the world's meat trade and the farmer who must produce more efficiently, are demanding better types of hogs. These types are obtained through careful selection and breeding, followed by the proper methods of feeding and care.

Club boys and girls can do much toward bringing this about by entering the Sow-Litter Club. Not only will they find the work profitable but they will become interested in animal life and the production of quality in pork.

Some of the objects of the work:

1. To stimulate interest in swine production by teaching the members how to raise better and cheaper hogs by the use of improved methods.
2. To teach the members how to judge hogs and to select them for breeding and market purposes.
3. To encourage the growing of forage crops and reduce the use of high priced feeds.
4. To instruct the members in a practical way in the management, feeding, sanitation and prevention of disease of swine, all of which information proves valuable with respect to other forms of livestock work.
5. To afford the members a means of earning some money for themselves while at home.
6. To afford an opportunity whereby the members can become familiar with popular strains within the breed and to promote the purebred live stock industry.



## REGULATIONS

1. Any Junior between the ages of 10 and 19 years inclusive may enter.
2. Each club shall have at least five members and a local leader.
3. Enrollment closes January 1.
4. Each club member will purchase a pure bred brood sow of his own selection, breed and care for her and her litter according to instructions.
5. Each member will receive instructions each month from the State Leaders and Extension Specialists relative to the care and feeding of the sow and litter.
6. Each member does his work, follows instructions, keeps a record, and makes reports as called for. At the close of the project he makes his final report and writes a story of his achievement.
7. An exhibit shall consist of one gilt, or one boar, or one of each, accompanied by record, reports and written story.
8. With the same exhibit, a member is entitled to compete for community, county and state honors.
9. The project will close November 15.

## ULTIMATE AIM.

The ultimate aim of the Sow-Litter Club is for club members to demonstrate the best methods of swine production, and to make a study of economical pork production for profits and not to flood the markets with inferior breeding stock.



## POINTS IN SELECTING THE BROOD SOW.

1. Select a gilt that comes from a strong, uniform litter of from 6 to 8 pigs and one that is not undersize.
2. The gilt should have a quiet disposition. She should be strong, deep and roomy and show motherly instincts.
3. She should have straight, strong legs, a well arched back and plenty of breadth through the shoulders.
4. She should be of proper color for the breed selected and conform to the type for that breed.
5. Bear in mind there are poor pure-bred sows as well as poor scrubs and grades.

## MARKETING:

Sow-Litter Club members will be encouraged to raise early litters, feed them out rapidly and market from 180 to 250 pounds in weight. Early market pigs are usually grown the cheapest and sell for the highest prices.

## BASIS OF ACHIEVEMENT:

1. Percent of farrow raised.....30%
2. Number of pigs raised per litter...30%
3. Junior Farm Accounts Record.....25%
4. Reports and Achievement Story.....15%