

# Bucklesberry, Back in the Day

## Hefty Hogs (Part 2)

The Bucklesberry community consistently produced hefty hogs for hog killings during the early twentieth century. Large hogs were also sold to area markets. Widely reported accounts documented incredibly big hogs that were beastly in size, some exceeding 1,000 pounds:

1907, December 12: "We think Lenoir county is entitled to the banner this year for raising the largest hogs that will be killed in the State. Mr. Julius E[ri] Sutton, who lives about five miles from La Grange in that section of the county known as Bucklesberry, killed a hog this week 28 months old that weighed after being dressed—net 815 pounds. Mr. B[en] H. Sutton, a neighbor of Mr. J. E. Sutton, killed one 25 months old that weighed 530 lbs. These two men are the sons of those good old substantial farmers and good men, Josiah Sutton [Sr.] and Hardy Sutton, who lived before the [Civil] War, whom it is said of them never bought a pound of meat or a bushel of corn in their lives. It would seem from the weight of these hogs, that these sons are worthy of their sires, and are still keeping up the good work..." (*The News and Observer*, Raleigh)

1916, August 11: "Lenoir County should be proud that it has farmers who are raising and selling on the local market fifty-six pound hams...Mr. Jere [Jeremiah, Jr.] Sutton of the Bucklesberry section sold a magnificent specimen of such proportions in Kinston. The hog, from which the ham was taken, weighed five hundred and eighty-five pounds, and any county in the State, or any other State, for that matter, would be proud to produce such stock..." (*The Daily Free Press*, Kinston)

1918, December 7: "This has been hog killing week in the La Grange section. Mr. K[irby] E. Sutton killed 46 weighing 10,970 pounds, or an average of 240 pounds to the hog. It is doubted whether this record will be beaten in the county this year." (*The Daily Free Press*, Kinston)

1920, January 20: "Elephantine porkers butchered at Seven Springs and La Grange recently writhed [sic., weighed] more than 700 pounds each dressed....Junius E[li] Sutton was the owner of the La Grange pig, which tipped the scales at 720 pounds when ready for the dealer. It weighed about 1,000 pounds before the killing, it is reported." (*The Daily Free Press*, Kinston)

1920, December 24: "Roy Sutton yesterday slaughtered a hog which weighed dressed 805 pounds. Sutton neglected to weigh the animal before it was butchered, when its estimated weight was between 1,000 and 1,100 pounds. The porker had a younger brother which went the way of all good pigs last year at a dressed weight of 720 pounds. Bucklesberry...the champion pork-producing section of eastern Carolina." (*News and Record*, Greensboro)

1921, December 2: "Bucklesberry...champion large hog locality of the State for years past, today reported its first important 'kill' of the new season. Finley P[arrott] Sutton was stated to have killed 12 hogs weighing 3,500 pounds. As many more on his farm will be slaughtered shortly and will add 2,000 pounds to the Sutton meat supply. Sutton's total for the 24 animals will be approximately 5,500 pounds..." (*The Daily Free Press*, Kinston)

1922, December 13: "Josiah Sutton [Jr.'s] grandchildren usually produce many tons of pork on the old farm...Finley P. Sutton butchered 10 animals weighing 3,816 pounds; Harvey H[ill] Sutton nine weighing 2,700 pounds; Harry [Manley] Sutton four totaling 1,056 pounds; Thomas Caudell 10 weighing 2,254, and Mark [Julian Marcus] Sutton 10 weighing 2,050 Pounds. Many pigs were left on the place to be butchered later. Nearby D[empsey] W. Wood killed one animal weighing 603 pounds..." (*The Daily Free Press*, Kinston)