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## Stilbestrol Prestige Increases; 1956 Operations Demand Economy

Stilbestrol — or more properly diethylstilbestrol — is rapidly overcoming opposition as an ingredient in livestock feed at this moment compared to the situation several months back.

"Criticism from packers has died out. Is it due possibly to a different form of use?" one representative of the Lancaster Stock Yards asked a few days back.

His question was posed following a discussion of the beef cattle situation and feed supply outlook by Thomas King, livestock extension specialist from Pennsylvania State University college of agriculture.

Mr. King traced the history of stilbestrol in live beef cattle feeding, from early experiments at Iowa State College, from Purdue University and others. "At first, results were good for some, mediocre for others," the livestock specialist reported.

However, he continued, 26 agricultural colleges in the middle-west, south and west have just summarized results of recent experiments, finding that "on the average a 16 per cent increase in gain was obtained from 13 per cent less feed."

"Sixty per cent of all commercial supplements marketed this fall will contain stilbestrol or similar hormone compounds," Mr. King added.

Dwight Youngkin, also a livestock extension specialist at Penn State pointed out that pork consumption is off ten pounds per person this year. Figures on consumption were elaborated by Mr. King: all meat production this year is up five per cent; each person will consume an average 160 pounds of meat, which will include 79 pounds of beef, 67 pounds of pork.

To produce the meat-type hog today's market demands, Mr. Youngkin told, the farmer should select the longer, larger, more trim, more growthy types developed from breeding. Several purebred swine organizations are developing Production Record (PR) programs and ratings, certifying boars and sows.

**Live Hog Backfat Check**  
In answer to one query from the audience at the Lancaster Livestock Field Day, he advised pork producers to include a little supplement to encourage them to soil mixed with pig starter begin eating earlier, to speed up the weaning process. However, care must be taken to select earth that is clean, that does not carry any germs or parasites.

One of the highlights of the program, in a day when emphasis breeding stock, more females are finding their way into the rood field.

"Cattle numbers may go down,

## Mailing First Edition



Thousands and thousands of 000 rural boxholders in Lancaster County, as shown in the picture above, taken by Ray Westafer. counted, bundled and sorted by staff members and mailed to 22,

or up in numbers, but will gradually work uphill on a par with human population, he advised, due to increased feed supplies, a 17 per cent increase in Corn Belt corn production, and good range pasture conditions. "Feeder prices are strong, and they may continue strong," Mr. King said, "and cattle feeding is placed so highly on thickness of backfat, was the probe measurement made on a live hog by the extension representative. On the U.S. No. 1 hog, an acceptable 15 inches was recorded while the next hog, a U.S. No. 2, would carry a thicker layer — six to 12 pounds more fat for a fair market that has been sorely depressed in recent months.

"Twelve to 13 per cent of the hogs received at market today will grade U.S. No. 1, and about 20 per cent will grade No. 2," Mr. Youngkin concluded.

### Cattle Feeding Margin Low

Margins for the cattle feeder are low, figures from Corn Belt cost studies prove, Mr. King told the group, with the following profits reported following six months feeding:

Year	Profits Per Steer
1950-1951	\$82.68
1951-1952	21.49
1952-1953	-24.44 (loss)
1953-1954	39.25
1954-1955	15.86

With four million producers, and 58 million head of beef cattle, this year returns should be fairly comparable to those of 1954, Mr. King added.

Cattle numbers have increased since 1949, when the last low was marked up, but in 1954-1955 ten per cent more cows and heifers were marketed, indicating more widespread today — in the west, the south and southwest.

Brief mention was given the hog situation: "Farmers will 121-

row eight to 11 per cent more pigs this fall."

Replacement stock will narrow margins somewhat. Where the margin was once six to eight cents, two to three and one-half cents may be more common. "This fall slaughter calves are selling stronger than steers, so the calf program may be heavier," Mr. King pointed out. "Recently," he added, "slaughter calves averaged \$27.00 cwt in a Virginia sale."

Today's feeder is producing twice as much beef with only half as many more cattle compared to the feeder of the 1900s. This is due to improved breeding, rearing, a larger crop which has increased 75 to 88 per cent since the turn of the century in number of calves produced per cow.

Today finds earlier maturing cattle, a faster turnover. Breeders are thinking of production as the dairyman once did, and as a result it is much easier to measure abilities by breeding.

While milk cows increased in number 14 per cent from 1920 to 1955, beef cattle increased 93 per cent.

Six points were presented by Mr. King for the good cattle feeder and manager: 1, buy cattle to fit your feed supply; 2, reduce losses and setbacks (disease, parasites, etc.); 3, feed economically; 4, save labor (automation); 5, utilize manure as fertilizer; and 6, hogs produce hidden profits by following cattle.

Primary in any feeding program are expenses of feed and labor. Feeders today must strive to improve their margin and their rate of gain. "Consider now much it costs you to put on a one-pound gain in your cattle; keep basic records: 1, the amount of feed consumed; 2, give that feed a certain market value, 3, then, check your gain against costs, and try to keep your gain costs down," Mr. King advised.

### Roughages Reduce Expenses

Iowa tests, he reviewed, found drylot feeding steers to choice grade could cost 29 cents per pound. Supplement roughages and use them freely to reduce expenses, such as corn or grass silage, and corn stover silage. Protein substitutes can also help reduce expenses, such as urea and ammoniated molasses.

As to the future? The small group heard the Pennsylvania men advise that all means or economy should be utilized in farm operations: "The future (next year) is not too bright, but the economical feeder should do well."

During the forenoon, Clyde Brubaker of Ephrata and Donald Rutt of Peach Bottom gave an excellent demonstration on reducing Livestock Shipping Losses, with models of trucks and loading equipment that would do credit in any show. "The Meat-Type Hog" was the topic of a timely demonstration by Walter Augsburger of Reinholds, RD 1, and Wayne Miller of Mt. Joy in the afternoon session.

# What ?

- What do you want to see?
- What type article do you want to read?
- What interests you most?

LIST BELOW IN ORDER BY PREFERENCE . . .

Clip and Mail, - - - We'll appreciate your interest.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
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