

Livestock Feeds

Salt Proves Valuable As Additive

An Iowa State University committee of beef cattle nutritionists prepared a report summarizing the effect of feed additives in some 400 experimental comparisons at various colleges, says Gustov Bohstedt, Emeritus Professor of Animal Husbandry at the University of Wisconsin.

Some of the enzymes and tranquilizers covered were still in the experimental stage, not even on the market as yet. But of all additives tested including live ruminant cultures, chemobiotics, and alcohol, the greatest gain stimulation, feed savings, and return per dollar invested, was stilbestrol when fed at the rate of 10 milligrams daily per head.

In 105 beef cattle fattening tests the return per dollar invested was \$11.57, and in 50 growing rat on tests it was \$9.38. This is surely a fine economic performance for this estrogenic or female sex hormone when added to beef cattle rations, Bohstedt says.

Economics shown in the additive experiments remind us of other cattle and swine work where the addition of common stock salt to a ra-

tion saved \$11.57 for every dollar invested, and saved life itself. To be sure salt is more than an additive to a ration. It is a nutrient. But a good many stockmen seem to consider it a condiment or mere appetizing ingredient, judging by the haphazard way it is frequently dispensed to livestock.

Years ago, Dr. John M. Eward of Iowa State University demonstrated that, comparing the performance of salted and unsalted pigs, each pound of salt saved 213 lbs. of feed. At current prices this means every dollar spent for salt returns \$355. Professor Vestal of Purdue University, in a similar "with and without salt" experiment with pigs showed that one pound of salt saved 287 lbs. of feed, or one dollar's worth of salt returned \$473.

conducted by veteran search men. But rations differ, pigs differ, and so do all things that make up the inheritance and environment of pigs on experiment.

So, at the University of Wisconsin in tests with pigs a pound of salt saved only 9 pounds of feed. Don't disparage this saving. Every dollar expended for salt returned \$15.—comparing quite favorably with the saving from the use of stilbestrol, according to Bohstedt.

The two products are in different categories in the management of livestock, but the lesson seems plain that with all of the new and exciting principles having to do with feeding of livestock we had better not forget one of the oldest and proved principles of nutrition—salt.

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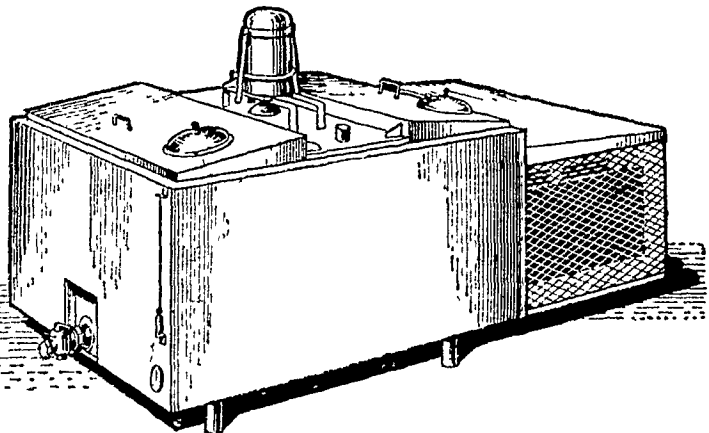
*Based on final reports in 1959-60 Random Sample Tests in Ariz., B.C., Calif., Fla., Ia., Minn., Mo., C.N.Y., W.N.Y., N.C., Pa., Tenn., Tex., Utah, and Wisc.

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