

## Pelleting Means More Hog Per Ton Of Feed

Pelleted feed for hogs is some 10% more efficient than meal rations when pigs are fed corn-soybean feed, reports a research nutritionist currently working on problems of swine nutrition.

Pelleting thus saves the hog producer at least \$7 per ton of feed, it was calculated by Dr. D. E. Becker of the University of Illinois. Writing in the spring issue of The Merck Agricultural Memo, Becker estimated that pelleted rations mean at least 60 pounds more gain per ton of feed.

"At present, 60 pounds of live hog is worth at least \$12, whereas the cost for pelleting will not exceed \$5 per ton of feed," he said. "Hence, there can be no doubt that pelleting is an economic practice."

Contrary to earlier assumptions, Becker found that the beneficial effect of the pelleted feed is not a consequence of greater feed intake. Pellet-fed pigs "actually consumed less feed daily than meal-fed pigs," he said, though weight gains were more rapid.

Why this should be so is still somewhat of a mystery, Becker declared. Form of the

pellet appears to have little significance, since "pigs fed pelleted feeds reground into a meal exhibit the beneficial effect." He noted findings by other researchers that pelleting increases the digestibility coefficient of dry matter and gross energy, but not of crude protein.

"It seems likely that pellet machines cause some chemical or physical change that enables the pig to digest the diet more completely," the nutritionist speculated. "Based on our knowledge of the effect of heat on the nutritive value of corn, it does not seem likely that the heat of pelleting along is responsible for the improvement of utilization."

## Apple Yields Up 25% When Mulch Replaces Sod

Yields from semi-dwarf apple trees can be increased 25 to 30 percent per tree by applying mulch instead of growing sod near the base of the trees, according to eight years of experiments at Penn State University.

In 1964-65, average yields of eight-year old Golden Delicious trees were increased by 115 pounds per tree by using mulch instead of sod, says Marshall Ritter, of the Agricultural Experiment Station at Penn State. The mulch conserves moisture, keeps down weeds, and maintains organic

matter in the soil, the department of horticulture research points out.

When mulching materials are used, Ritter explains, in a build-up of nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, and boron starts a year or two after mulching. The mulch should be renewed annually about the first of July, he suggests.

Yields from Jonathan apple trees have increased as much as 50 pounds per tree when mulch is used instead of sod for ground cover, he said. Mulched eight-year old McIntosh trees have yielded 45 more pounds per tree than the trees grown under sod culture. The experiments were carried out in the University orchards.

Carl S. Bittner, extension fruit specialist at Penn State, Live Stock and Meat Board,

says that fruit growers generally have some acreage of waste land or wet areas unsuited for fruit growing but ideal for growing mulch. In wet areas, Reed canarygrass grows well, he reports. In the better drained areas, orchardgrass, bromegrass, or sudan grass may be grown. Provisions must be made for mouse control, Bittner advises.

Ritter finds that the mulched trees produce apples with brighter color than trees grown with a sod culture. Also, the apples are firmer and sweeter, he adds.

Livestock products furnish about 60 percent of the protein in the U. S. food supply, states the Nutrition Research Department of the National

## Farmers' Assn. Ladies Schedule Summer Plans

The Ladies Committee of the Lancaster County Farmers' Association met on Tuesday evening at the home of Mrs. Ellis Mentzer to plan their summer activities and budget.

"Ladies Day Out" will be held at the Abbeyville Inn at Collegeville on Friday, July 29. A smorgasbord dinner and informative program is planned.

The annual picnic for all Lancaster County Farmers' Association members will be held at Sico Park Mount Joy with a picnic supper, games and fellowship. There will not be a speaker.

Plans were also made for a luncheon meeting with the American Association of University Women. This will be held at the Giff home at Mount Joy. Date to be announced later.

## Have You Heard?

(Continued from Page 11)

Chunk-style tuna comes in bite-sized pieces suitable for use in casseroles, creamed dishes, or salads.

Flaked or grated tuna consists of small bits ready for blending to make sandwich fillings, dips, or salads.

Albacore, a variety of tuna, is the only kind that can be labeled as white meat. Other tuna varieties are designated as light meat.

## Storing Place Mats and Napkins

A large portfolio-type cardboard container you can make or buy is handy for storing place mats and napkins. When expanded, the portfolio is 12 inches deep and can hold more than a dozen items. When shut, it can be stored in a drawer or on a shelf to protect linens from wrinkling or soiling. Label the outside with the contents.

## Is That Word Necessary?

The Ten Commandments contain 297 words, the Bill of Rights 463, Lincoln's Gettysburg Address 266. A recent federal directive to regulate the price of cabbage contains 26,911 words.



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