

Big Potential Found for Pollution Control and Quality Beef

Penn State Study Recycles Poultry Waste Through Steers

Animal nutritionists at Pennsylvania State University are using a method of pollution control to convert raw materials from poultry waste into a useful product—beef.

The process converts nitrogen in poultry waste into meat protein nitrogen, according to Dr. T. A. Long and R. C. Croyle, associate professor and graduate assistant, respectively, in the department of animal science at Penn State.

All protein contains nitrogen, these scientists point out. Successfully feeding poultry waste to cattle could mean that the million tons of poultry waste produced annually in Pennsylvania would have its pollution potential sharply reduced.

When prepared for use in a cattle ration, poultry waste appears very similar to commonly used protein supplements, for example soybean meal.

The raw waste is given a thorough heat treatment with steam or dry heat.

Finally, the waste is ground

to a small particle size for mixing into the ration as a nutrient source.

● Farm Calendar

(Continued from Page 1)

Thursday, March 18

9:30 a.m.—4 p.m. — Franklin County cattle feeders to tour Lancaster County.

7:15 p.m. — Elizabethtown 4-H Pig and Rabbit Club reorganization meeting, Elizabethtown Trust Company Building.

7:30 p.m. — Tevoca FFA Chapter (Brownstown Vo-Tech) first annual banquet, Brownstown Vo-Tech school.

7:20 p.m. — Manheim Young Farmers Farm Records and Budgeting Course, Manheim Senior High School.

7:30 p.m. — Farm Management meeting on Wills, Estates and Farm Transfer Arrangements, Farm and Home Center.

8 p.m. — 4-H Guernsey Club organizational meeting, Raymond F. Witmer home, Willow Street RD1.

Friday, March 19

6:30 p.m. — Lancaster County Swine Producers annual banquet, Blue Ball Fine Hall.

1 p.m. — Trail ride, Broken Bit 4-H Horse and Pony Club, home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Risser, State Grange Regional Institute, Topton, Berks County.

As a cattle feed, processed poultry waste has been found to equal conventional sources of nitrogen. Rates of gain and feed efficiencies for steers fed poultry waste are similar to those produced by feeding soybean meal or urea.

At Penn State, carcasses of similar quality were produced from diets containing poultry waste, urea, or soybean meal, Dr. Long said.

A taste panel found that steaks fed poultry waste were equally acceptable as compared to steaks from steers fed urea or soybean meal supplement.

Specifically, steer carcasses were similar in conformation, marbling, backfat, color of fat, and USDA grade, loin-eye area, per cent cutability, and tenderness.

The next step will be to determine conclusively that the poultry waste is sterile and,

when eaten, will not cause an accumulation of drugs in the animal's tissues.

Dr. Long and Mr. Croyle said preliminary experimental results indicate that feeding poultry waste does not add significant amounts of residual chemicals to the carcass.

They further point out that studies of the recycling of agricultural wastes are being expanded by the Agricultural Experiment Station at Penn State.

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