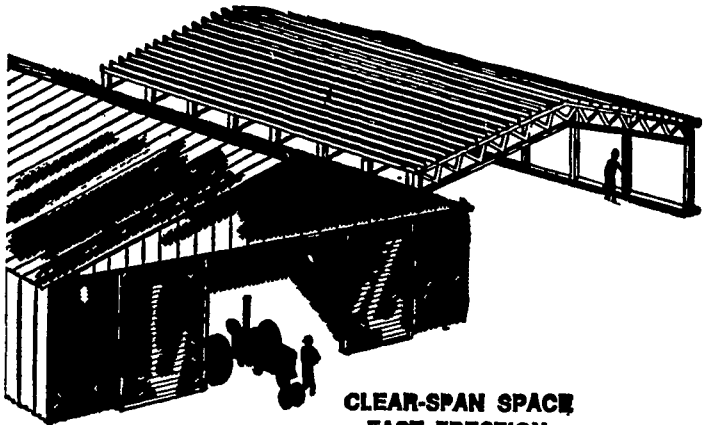


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Methane Inhibitors Can Increase Rumen Efficiency, Firm Says

Feedlot trials with three experimental compounds which increased feed efficiency up to 11 percent and improved daily weight gains of 5.5 percent in sheep were described in a paper, prepared for presentation in Chicago recently at the annual meeting of the Midwest Section, American Society of Animal Science.

The compounds achieved these results by inhibiting the production of methane, a high energy gas, that is wasted by the animal.

Methane inhibitors are under study as potential feed additives at the Animal Health Research Center of Smith Kline & French Laboratories, in suburban Philadelphia.

Results of performance trials with 300 head of feeder lambs were described in the paper, "The Effect of Several Methane Inhibitors on Performance and Metabolite Concentration in Fattening Lambs." The paper was presented by Dr. John E. Trei, a senior nutritionist, Dr. Roger C. Parish, manager of chemistry research, and George C. Scott, D.V.M., Director of Research and Development, of SK&F's Animal Health Products Division. Smith Kline & French is the Philadelphia, Pa., manufacture of prescription medicines and other health-related products.

Both the current and previous performance trials with HCS (Hemicaetal of Chloral and Starch) and related chloral derivatives in cattle and sheep show that they will block

methane gas production in the animal's rumen and allow the formation of other substances used productively by the animal for its energy requirements. The livestock producer obtains greater weight gain with less feed.

Gas-forming bacteria produce methane during the digestive process in the rumen, the first of four compartments in the stomach of ruminants (cud-chewing animals such as cattle, sheep, goats, oxen, deer and antelopes). Methane is a high energy gas and a major constituent of natural gas. The animals eliminate the gas by belching.

The experimental compounds are known to have specific effects on the inhibition of enzymatic methane formation which results in a favorable alternation of rumen microbial metabolism and hence feed utilization by the host animal.

The data reported show that when the additives are mixed into finishing rations for fattening lambs, improvements in feed efficiency of up to 11 percent and gains of 5.5 percent were achieved.

The compounds at different concentrations were mixed into a pelleted basal ration of ground corn, soybean meal, mixed hay and molasses. Feed consumption was recorded daily and the lambs weighed periodically during the study.

The feed efficiency responses

observed over six different fattening trials with more than 200 head of steers and 1,000 lambs have ranged from 6 to 14 percent. In most trials rates of gain were also increased.

The U.S. Patent Office has issued to SK&F patents of HCS and many related compounds.

Dr. Trei said the principle objective remaining is one of defining the proper dosage formulation and determining the feasibility for administration to remnants on pasture.

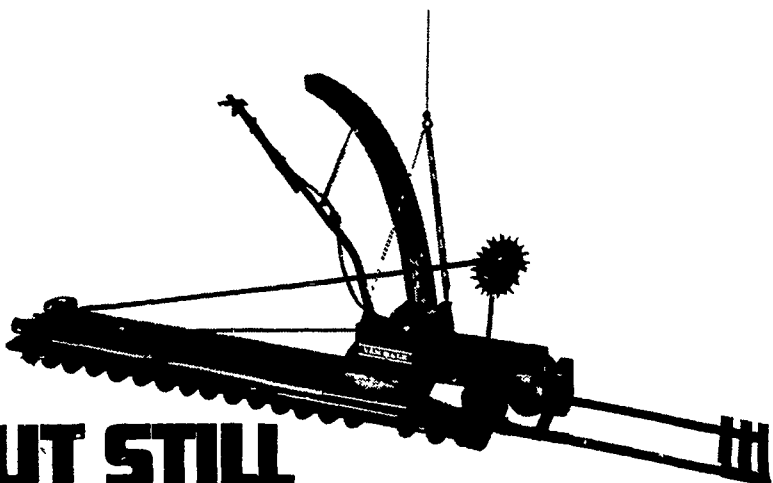
SK&F expects to file and Investigational New Animal Drug Application with the Food and Drug Administration later this year. Extensive field trials will have to be conducted before the compound can be approved for marketing as a feed additive for food producing animals by the FDA.

Same Old Story: Costs Up Faster

Last year, gross farm income was a record \$56.6 billion, a gain of \$1.1 billion over the preceding year, according to United States Department of Agriculture officials.

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