

Study eyes feeding soybean hulls to cattle

LINCOLN, NEB. — It's a terrific idea, they say, if we only had the money.

Terry Klopfenstein, ruminant nutritionist at the University of Nebraska, was talking about his recent meetings with scientists in Eastern Europe. He explained to them that soybean hulls, a high-energy, high-fiber byproduct of soybean meal production, could be used to feed cattle.

"The scientists like the idea of using hulls instead of grain," says Klopfenstein. "Some were quite excited. But, the problem is just not having the money to pay for the hulls."

Klopfenstein recently visited scientists in both East Germany and West Germany on behalf of the American Soybean Association (ASA). In East Berlin, Klopfenstein spoke on high roughage diets for ruminants at a food fair. It was the first time ASA had been represented at an East German seminar.

Eastern European countries do not have grain to feed cattle, Klopfenstein says. Cattle are raised on available forages and crop residues. Grain is used for human food, or to feed swine and poultry.

"Because the price of soybean hulls is competitive with grains," Klopfenstein says, "soybean hulls could be very well used in Eastern European countries."

Klopfenstein thinks the soybean hull market can be developed in West Germany. The hulls will come either from the U.S. or from the West German processing industry, which is based on U.S. beans anyway, Klopfenstein explains. But first, scientists, feed specialists and others in the livestock and dairy industries must be convinced of the high energy value of soybean hulls.

Klopfenstein thinks that shouldn't be difficult. He cites his own research findings that soybean hulls used as an energy

source for growing cattle can increase gains like corn. Other pluses: hulls don't decrease fiber digestion or require a high level of feeding management.

Klopfenstein's research is supported by farmers through the soybean checkoff, as are many other soybean-related research projects at universities across the country. In Nebraska, funds are allocated by farmers elected to the Nebraska Soybean Development, Utilization and Marketing Board. In addition to supporting research, checkoff dollars fund soybean export expansion projects — which create demand for more U.S. soybeans.

"I'm very optimistic about increasing the use of soybean hulls in ruminant rations," Klopfenstein says. His enthusiasm is catching.

While in Germany, Klopfenstein met with Dr. K. Rors, professor at the Institute of Animal Nutrition in Braunschweig. Rors expressed interest in conducting research in cooperation with ASA to demonstrate to the German science community the value of soybean

hulls.

"Getting the idea across that soybean hulls are a high energy feed will take some work," says Klopfenstein, "but at least the scientists seem ready to accept the basic logic of using fiber rather than starch."

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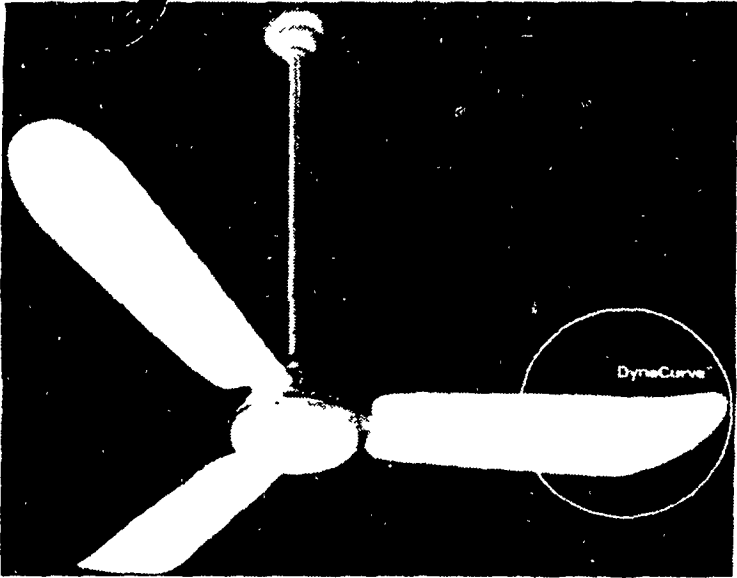
ANNAPOLIS, Md. — The 1983 guide to Maryland Retail Farmers Markets is now off the press and should soon be available at your local public library or Cooperative Extension Service office according to Jack Frey of the Maryland Department of Agriculture.

This year, 33 markets in 19 counties plus Baltimore City and Washington, D.C. are listed along with their addresses, days and hours of operation.

Within the past several years the number of markets has increased substantially as farmers and consumers alike have found direct selling in town a good old custom for both parties.

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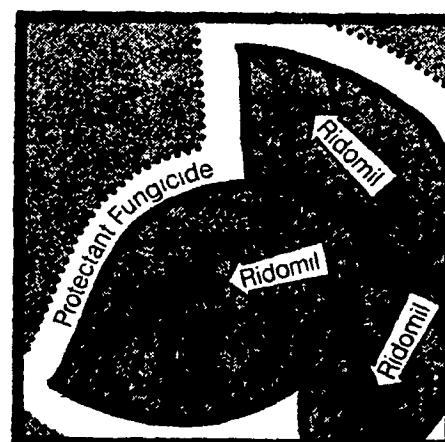
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