

Wheat is economical hog feed alternative

State park bill introduced



In light of current corn prices, wheat may be the logical feed alternative for many hog farmers.

HARRISBURG — Senator Noah Wenger, R-36, has introduced legislation designating over 1,200 acres of land along White Clay Creek, Chester County, as state park lands.

The proposed park, made possible by land donated to the state by E. I. duPont de Nemours and Company of Delaware, will be used solely for "outdoor recreational use for the citizens of Pennsylvania and tourists," according to Wenger. "Because of its prime location, this land could have been sold for a considerable sum if placed on the commercial market. I commend the duPont Company for placing the long-term public benefit above any short-term personal gain," he added.

"In addition," Wenger noted, "an adjoining tract of land in Delaware has also been designated as state park land and, as a result, a bi-state advisory board, under the guidance of each state's Department of Environmental Resources, will be established to administer the park's operations and upkeep."

"It is the intention of both states to keep as much of this land as possible in its current condition," the senator said. "It is not planned as a big development park but rather as a place for light camping, picnicking, and a simple day in the woods."

In addition to introducing the Senate resolution designating the park, Wenger complimented the Department of Environmental Resources for its continued improvement and upkeep to the Commonwealth's state park system.

"With Pennsylvania having the fourth largest state park system in the United States," Wenger concluded, "the addition of this park — our state's 113th — is further evidence that DER plans to continue its tradition of maintaining quality state parks."

Also speaking at the press conference announcing the planned park were Governor Dick Thornburgh, Governor Pierre duPont of Delaware, Edward Jefferson of duPont and Company, members of the Delaware legislature, and Representative Joseph Pitts, R-158.

Sweet named

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CME, including agricultural editor, acting director of public affairs and advertising manager.

Sweet also has experience in the livestock industry, serving for two years as chief executive officer of the Red Angus Association of America.

He has also been general manager of the "Angus Journal," the monthly publication of the American Angus Association, and editor and advertising manager of "Cattle Guard" magazine, the monthly publication of the Colorado Cattleman's Association.

A 1965 graduate of Shawnee Mission, Ks., East High School, Sweet received a bachelors degree in technical journalism from Kansas State University, and served four years in the Navy.

LMA is the national trade association for the marketing sector of the livestock industry, with some 1,300 member businesses in the U.S. and Canada.

still fall far short of meeting a pig's total nutritional requirements for these and other nutrients. "And while supplementing with a concentrate formulated specifically for use with corn may meet a hog's nutritional requirements, it does not take advantage of wheat's higher levels of lysine and phosphorus," he suggests. To make the most of this cost-effective grain, Dr. Willis, offers a few tips on formulating a nutritious, efficient, wheat-based swine ration.

- When corn is 90 percent or more the per-bushel price of wheat, producers should compare the cost of wheat versus corn-based grind and mix rations to make best value decisions.

- Wheat can be substituted for 100 percent of the corn portion of swine rations.

- To attain optimal feed efficiency, producers should grind or

roll wheat to a medium to coarse particle size. Finely ground wheat is powdery, and pigs may reduce feed intake.

- Wheat should be carefully screened for molds, especially in rations for young pigs or breeder herds.

- Although wheat contains more lysine and available phosphorus than corn, it still falls far below swine nutritional needs. It should be supplemented with a concentrate that is specially formulated to take advantage of wheat's elevated levels of these nutrients.

According to Willis, farmers shouldn't hesitate to feed wheat when it's economically sound. "A properly supplemented wheat-based ration can be an excellent alternative to corn-based rations, especially during times of high corn prices like we are now experiencing," he concludes.

With corn prices expected to remain high at least until harvest, many cost-conscious hog producers are finding wheat an economically attractive alternative to corn-based rations, says Susan Hackmann, a grain analyst with Pershing Futures in Chicago.

"This year, producers are feeding wheat to livestock in record amounts, even in the Corn Belt because of high corn prices and short supplies," Hackmann points out. According to USDA records, 425 million bushels of wheat were fed to livestock during the 1983-84 crop year for wheat, compared to 221 million bushels the previous year. "And for the year as a whole, the USDA projects some 400 million bushels will be fed to livestock." Most of this wheat, she notes, will be fed from June through September, when farmers are waiting for the corn harvest.

Although wheat traditionally enjoys a significant price premium over corn, this year prices on the Chicago Board of Trade are virtually the same, Hackmann says. "July futures contracts closed with corn at 3.53-1/2 per bu., and wheat at 3.64-3/4 per bu.," she says. "Considering that a bushel of corn weighs 56 lbs., and wheat 60 lbs., wheat is in fact cheaper than corn," she declares.

From the nutritional standpoint, wheat compares very favorably to corn, adds Dr. Gawain Willis, senior swine nutritionist for Ralston Purina Company, who notes that wheat is significantly higher in lysine and available phosphorus. Wheat, he explains, contains 30 percent more lysine and almost three times the available phosphorus than corn.

Yet, warns Willis, all-wheat diets

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