

ASA showing China ways to use soybeans

ST. LOUIS — China hungers for new technology. U.S. soybean farmers are taking the edge off the hunger—and building market potential for their crop—by promoting industries in China which use soybeans.

Through market development projects of the American Soybean Association—which are funded by soybean farmers and the Foreign Agricultural Service—China is expanding its use of soybeans.

Ken Lepley is an animal nutritionist for the American Soybean Association. In 1981, Lepley made his first trip to China for the Soybean Association. Four years and three trips later, Lepley is enthusiastic about China's progress.

The opportunity to work with the Chinese and witness China's technological advancements has been one of the highlights of a long career promoting soybeans, according to Lepley. He retires in October after 11 years with the Soybean Association.

Lepley says, "When I made my first trip to China, most dairymen there were using whole milk to raise replacement dairy calves, and they were destroying the bull

calves at birth. We set up a feeding trial to show them how to use milk replacers and dry feed—in place of milk—to raise dairy calves. This procedure would save them more than 500 liters of milk per calf raised, and allow them to raise the bull calves for beef instead of slaughtering them.

"On my most recent trip to China, in June, I saw dairymen following through with part of what they'd learned. Replacement calves were being raised on reduced amounts of whole milk and switched to dry feed at a younger age, and bull calves were being kept for dairy-beef," says Lepley.

He adds, "This is just one way China is growing. We're also seeing rapid improvements in poultry and swine, and in livestock feed production."

According to Lepley, during the next 15 years China plans to build 200 to 400 new feedmills to meet its growing need for livestock and poultry. "The large feedmills will be constructed near the coast," says Lepley. "These mills would represent an ideal opportunity one day to sell soybeans or soybean

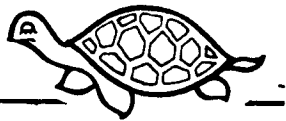
meal and feed grains to China."

Chinese government officials told Lepley that by 1990 China will produce 50 million metric tons of feed. And by the year 2000, China will double feed production to 100 million metric tons.

"China grows soybeans," says Lepley. "And they have the potential to compete with us for world soybean markets. We have to show China ways to use their soybeans instead of exporting them. If China uses 10 percent

soybean meal in rations, they will need 10 million metric tons of soybean meal to meet their needs in the year 2000. That's equivalent to 464 million bushels or one-fourth of the U.S. soybean production in 1984."

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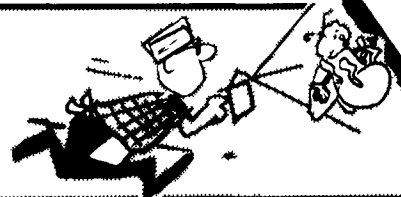
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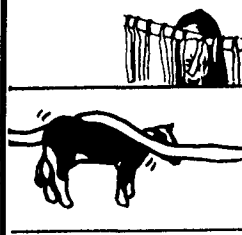
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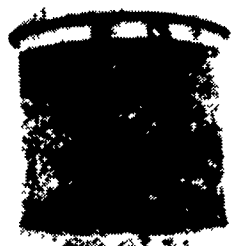
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