

Cattlemen At Field Day Discuss How To Cut Costs

BY J. EVAN REIFF

Cattlemen were told to avoid holding fat cattle and to keep their feedlots filled as risk management measures Saturday by a key-note

speaker at the Pa Cattlemen's Field Day.

Glenn Paris, West Berne, NY, said two costly mistakes cattlemen

make are waiting for the fat cattle market to go up and not keeping their feedlots full year around.

"Don't just buy feeders when the silos are full and sell in the spring when they are empty," Paris explained. "Everybody does it and then they try to play the market."

By feeding by-products and damaged corn, Paris is able to keep cattle year around and control feed costs. He also stressed the need for low overhead costs and maintaining several lines of credit to ease cash flow problems.

Paris, who finishes 3400 cattle annually, spoke to a group of about 150 cattlemen, packers, and buyers at the Greystone Manor Farm, Lancaster. The field day was sponsored by the Penn State Extension Service, the Pa. Cattlemen's Association, and the Pa Beef Council.

Terry Dockerty, Northeast Beef and Veal Merchandiser, informed participants of how their beef check-off dollars were being spent. According to Dockerty, the National Livestock and Meat Board's goal is to use check-off funds for projects that will increase the demand for beef.


The beef promotional ads on radio, TV, and in the print media target people who are concerned about their health and live active lifestyles, Dockerty said. Though it is too early to tell how successful the program is, he noted that studies show consumer attitudes towards beef are changing and retail sales are up over last year.

The Meat Board has also appropriated funds for research in beef nutrition and new beef products. The research results will be made available to consumers to help inform them that beef can be a healthy and an inexpensive protein source, Dockerty said.

The field day program included exhibits and demonstrations on idea feeder cattle types, carcass yields and cost of gain. Packers, producers and buyers took part in a panel discussion in which cattlemen were encouraged to not over-feed cattle, keep a low over-head, and control their cattle's cost of gain.

LIVESTOCK LATEST

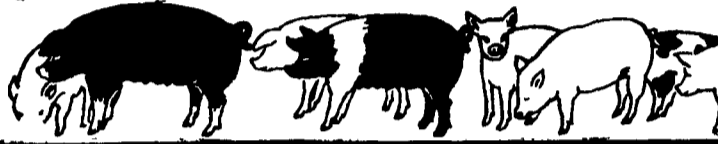




Pork Prose

by
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Alternative Feed Grains Most of the hogs in this country fimmixture of some kind in the feeder. The combination of corn and soybean meal is both practical and economical. But every now and then hog producers have an opportunity to buy or raise an "odd" feed grain -- like millet or lupins. Here are a few tips on hog performance and feed formulation if you're planning to use an off-the-wall feedstuff.

Approximate values are given for each feedstuff based on corn at \$2.00/bu and 48% soybean meal at \$220 per ton plus any expected changes in performance.

A cross between wheat and rye, has been around for at least 100 years, but it has never really caught on. However, a recent variety -- Beagle '82, shows good promise for swine feeds. It contains about 12% protein and .40% lysine. (Corn has about 9% protein and .24% lysine). So you can use triticale in place of all the corn and about 80 pounds of soybean meal in a 1-ton ration. Approximate value of triticale: \$.039/pound.

Insect growth can be a problem in storage, and feeders should be checked often -- triticale diets can gum up the feeder throats. As a feed grain, Beagle '82 looks great, but this variety is not adapted to warmer climates. I expect some cool season varieties to be released soon from Canada.

A legume normally used to produce beans for human consumption has not been used much in.

The older varieties contain toxic alkaloids and require heat treatment before feeding. But newer "sweet" lupin varieties are much lower in alkaloids. Sweet lupins contain about 35% protein and about 2.0% lysine. Up to 200 pounds can be added to the ration, saving 90 pounds of corn and 110 pounds of soybean meal. Approximate value of lupins: \$.07/pound.

Lupins are less palatable, and contain high levels of fiber and manganese. These factors will reduce growth rate 5 to 8%. Use 4 pounds of ferrous sulfate per ton to offset the high manganese levels.

Sunflower Seeds contain about 19% protein, 15% fiber, and about .59% lysine. Up to 200 pounds can be used per ton to replace 180 pounds of corn and 20 pounds of

soybean meal, with little effects on performance. Approximate value of sunflower seeds: \$.043/pound.

Because sunflowers contain a lot of oil, they may decrease carcass firmness. Avoid using more than 400 pounds per ton.

Are not much different in composition than rolled oats. Protein content varies from 13 to 17%. Lysine levels range from .50 to .70%. When using hullless oats, all the corn and about 80 pounds of soybean meal can be removed from the formula with no effects on performance. More soybean meal can be removed with the addition of synthetic lysine. Approximate value of hullless oats: \$.039/pound.

Pearl Millet contains 15.7% protein and .35% lysine. Experiment
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Dr. Bill Henning, Penn State meat specialist, shows how a beef carcasses yield grade 1s found at the Pa Cattlemen's Field Day.



The latest in beef promotion and education efforts were presented by Terry Dockerty, Northeast Beef and Veal Merchandiser.

Cumberland Swine Roundup



The Cumberland County 4-H Swine Roundup was held August 18, 1987 at the Carlisle Livestock Market. The Country Butcher Shop purchased the Cumberland County Reserve Champion Market Hog owned by Stacy Suffel, Carlisle. Shown here are: Glenn Finkenbinder, Country Butcher Shop; Peter Garman, Carlisle Livestock Market; and Stacy Suffel, Carlisle.



The Cumberland County 4-H Swine Roundup was held August 18, 1987 at the Carlisle Livestock Market. Hatfield Packing Company purchased the Cumberland County 4-H Champion Market Hog owned by Roger Finkenbinder, Carlisle. Shown here are: Ezra Good, Hatfield Packing Company; Peter Garman, Carlisle Livestock Market; Roger Finkenbinder, Carlisle; and Ed Knisely, representing Knisely's Ag Center, sponsor of the Champion Banner.