



Pork Prose

by
Kenneth B. Kephart

Penn State Extension Swine Specialist

Protein Alternatives

If you're in the business of buying soybean meal-- and all hog producers are in one way or another -- the recent price increases have probably eaten a pretty big hole in your checking account. A year ago 48 percent soybean meal cost about \$240 per ton. Six months ago it was up to \$275 per ton. And now the market price is \$330 per ton. All this, since last June, has added at least \$5 to the cost of finishing a feeder pig, while hog prices have dropped \$10 per cwt. The net result is a decrease in profits of nearly \$30 per head.

What can you do about it? Not much. There are lots of protein sources that can be used to substitute for part or all of the soybean meal. But prices of protein alternatives tend to follow soybean meal.

As I'll explain, about the only change we can make currently to cut down on protein costs is to use synthetic lysine.

Here are some comments and feed costs for using various protein alternatives. The costs are based on a "standard" grower diet containing 16 percent protein (.80 percent lysine), with corn at \$2.60 per bushel, 48 percent soybean meal at \$330 per ton and vitamins and minerals at \$15 per ton of complete feed.

44 PERCENT SOYBEAN MEAL

If you have the option of using either 44 or 48 percent soybean meal, you're normally further ahead with 48 percent. There are no differences in performance but 48 percent meal permits the use of more corn, and feed costs are usually a little cheaper. Current market price of 44 percent soybean meal: \$317 per ton. Complete feed cost using 44 percent soybean

meal: about \$1 per ton over standard diet.

LYSINE-HCL

Lysine-HCl, another name for synthetic lysine, can be combined with corn to give you something that will do the job of soybean meal. For 1-ton ration, take 100 pounds of soybean meal out of your formula, and replace it with 3.5 pounds of lysine-HCl and 96.5 pounds of corn. PRECAUTIONS: 1) Don't remove more than 100 pounds of soybean meal from a 1-ton formula or other deficiencies will result. 2) Mix the lysine with at least 25 pounds of ground grain before adding to the mixer to ensure good distribution. Current market price of synthetic lysine: \$2 per pound. Complete feed cost with lysine added: about \$5 per ton over standard diet.

ROASTED SOYBEANS

In the last couple of years, roasted soybeans have provided a cheaper source of protein that soybean meal. The high fat level in the bean also improves feed efficiency and reduces dust levels in the building picture for most producers (even with the improved feed efficiency). Current market price of soybeans (including roasting): \$9 per bushel. Complete feed cost with 571 pounds roasted soybeans included: about \$13 per ton over standard diet.

ALFALFA MEAL

For producers that raise their own alfalfa, feed costs could possibly be reduced with this ingredient. But for those buying alfalfa meal, feed costs go up with the addition of this ingredient. Another drawback is a drop in feed efficiency because of the low energy content in alfalfa meal. With present market conditions, alfalfa would have to sell for less than \$90 per ton to make it competitive with

soybean meal. Current market price of alfalfa meal: \$196 per ton. Complete feed cost with 200 pounds alfalfa meal included: about \$6 per ton over standard diet.

MEAT AND BONE MEAL

Meat and bone meal is a little higher in protein than soybean meal, and a lot higher in calcium and phosphorus. This means that you can save on both soybean costs and mineral costs. But meat and bone meal has its drawbacks. First, meat and bone meal is usually more expensive than soybean meal. Secondly, the calcium and phosphorus levels vary. And finally, meat and bone meal, like other animal by-products, carries some risk of bacterial or viral contamination. Current market price of meat and bone meal: \$370 per ton. Complete feed cost with 100 pounds meat and bone meal included: about \$1 per ton over standard diet.

CORN DISTILLERS DRIED GRAINS

While corn distillers is fairly high in protein (27 percent), its lysine level is low (.6 percent). So corn distillers has to be similar to the price of corn to reduce total feed costs. Current market price of corn distillers dried grains: \$165 per ton. Complete feed cost with 200 pounds corn distillers included: about \$4 per ton over standard diet.

BREWERS DRIED GRAINS

Brewers grains are similar to corn distillers. Protein level is high and lysine level is low. Again, it has to be close to the price of corn to be a bargain in a swine ration. Current market price of brewers dried grains: \$145 per ton. Complete feed cost with 200 pounds brewers grains included: about the same as the standard diet.

FISH MEAL

While fish meal is an excellent source of protein and lysine, it's always expensive. Many feed companies use a small amount of fish meal in starter diets to improve protein quality, but as a major protein source, it's not as economical as soybean meal. Current market price of fish meal: \$550 per ton. Complete feed cost with 50 pounds fish meal included: about \$7 per ton over standard diet.

SUMMARY

The price of soybean meal has been going up rapidly. We can use other sources of protein to substitute for part or all of the soybean meal, but currently the only option that will save you money is synthetic lysine.

Doublean Genetics Now Has Belgian Blue Bulls

NORWALK, CT — Doublean Genetics announced today that semen from two lean-producing bulls is available for the first time in North America. The bulls, named Gribouille and Blythe Courage, are full-blood Belgian Blues. Use of these genetics will allow any producer to increase the carcass yield on his beef animals by at least 5 percent.

Doublean president Dr. Don Silvert commented, "Consumers around the world, and especially here in the United States, have been asking for leaner beef for a long time. In the breeds that we are focusing on, a very lean carcass is produced, which yet retains good flavor and tenderness." Doublean has experience using both the Belgian Blue and Piedmontese breeds for the production of high-yield, lean carcasses.

Dr. Silvert continued, "These

breeds carry 'lean' genes that cause them to stay lean even on high-energy feed. If fed well, a producer can expect even the half-blood animal to weigh in at over 1,000 pounds at 365 days. The carcass will be at least 80 percent meat, made lean genetically."

"We are particularly careful to select only sires and dams from lines that have excellent structure, muscling, and calving ease. All of our bulls have characteristics that make them useful for either heifers or cows. We expect a lot of very pleased producers next spring when they look over their 'Doublean' calves!"

Doublean Genetics Corp. promotes the use of genetics and management for the production of naturally lean beef. For more information, please call or write: P.O. Box 547, Norwalk, CT 06852; 203-846-9359.



Semen is now available for the first time in North America for Doublean's Gribouille, a lean-producing, easy-calving sire.

Cattlemen To Sponsor Youth Carcass Sale

RICHMONDVILLE, NY — A youth carcass sale sponsored by The New York Beef Cattlemen's Association will be held at this year's New York State Fair. "The program is open to youth and 4-H members," said Brian Scofield, chairman of this year's sale. "We think that making this a youth only sale will encourage more youngsters and 4-H members to participate." Also new for 1988's State Fair we're not restricting it to the beef breeds. According to Scofield, "We're hoping that youth with dairy steers will also enter their animals."

To be eligible for entry in the carcass auction competition, all 4-H or Youth animals must previously have been entered and exhibited in both the "on hoof" Youth Carcass Show and the "on hoof" Open Class Carcass Show. Cattle will have to be in place at the Beef Cattle Barn at The State Fairgrounds by Saturday, August 27th at 9:00 a.m. with weigh-in occurring at noon on Monday, August 29th. Animals will be judged at 2:00 p.m. the same day. The annual State Fair Carcass Sale will follow the judging. The sale annually attracts buyers from throughout

the state who are interested in purchasing the top five carcasses. Only five carcasses will be auctioned. The animals to be auctioned are limited to those 4-H or Youth entries which, after slaughter, have been judged to be the top five "on rail" carcasses from among all those entered in the Youth competition. The contending bidders will be competing to purchase the top five places, not for particular animals. Since the animals will not have been slaughtered, nor the top five carcasses determined until after the auction, the actual animal which the winning bidder buys will not yet be known.

"The carcass sale is an ideal way to reward these youth for their hard work," said Scofield. "Most often the money is set aside by the youngsters for their future education expenses." For additional information about this year's Youth Carcass Sale contact: Brian Scofield, Scofield Farms, RD#3, Addison, NY 14801; 607-359-3199 or Henry Bono, president, New York Beef Cattlemen's Assoc., RD#1 Box 219, Richmondville, NY 12149; 518-294-7716.

Pork Board Allocates \$1.36 Million To Program

DES MOINES, Ia. — The National Pork Board, in its second year as administrator of pork producer checkoff funds, recently allocated \$1.36 million to the National Pork Producers Council (NPPC) for use in a comprehensive

summer media and promotion campaign during 1988.

These efforts will expand on the successful Pork — the Other White Meat™ theme, targeting key consumer audiences through

(Turn to Page D4)

Cornell Poultry Conference To Focus On Animal Welfare

ITHACA, NY — More than 150 members of the poultry industry from throughout the Northeast and Canada will gather here to discuss animal welfare and other issues affecting the industry at the Cornell University Poultry Conference at the Ithaca Holiday Inn on June 29 and 30.

High on the agenda are the implications of a referendum to be held in Massachusetts in November, which could result in a ban on cage systems currently used for egg production, according to the conference chairman, Robert C. Baker, a professor of food science at Cornell.

"The Massachusetts referendum, if passed, could have a major impact on the nation's poultry industry," Baker said.

The issue will be debated in a panel discussion starting at 3:40 p.m. on June 29. The panelists are David L. Call, dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at

Cornell; Hugh Johnson of the American Farm Bureau Federation in Park Ridge, Ill.; Mabel Owen, director of the Massachusetts Department of Food and Agriculture; and New York State Assemblyman Richard I. Combe, a member of the State Assembly Agriculture Committee. The discussion is titled "Animal Welfare — How Long Can You Keep Layers in Cages?"

Another panel discussion, to be held at 10:45 a.m. on June 30, will focus on research at Cornell and other universities into bronchitis, a viral poultry respiratory disease affecting egg quality. During the session, several poultry farmers will share their experiences with this serious malady.

Other topics include:

- A new test that more accurately measures cholesterol levels in eggs.

- New egg pricing systems to reflect supply and demand.

- Washing eggs properly to prevent salmonella bacteria contamination.

- Efforts by the State Department of Agriculture and Markets to promote the poultry industry in New York.

- Improving eggshell quality.

- The problem of chemical residues in poultry feed.

- Basic research in immunophysiology and its significance to the poultry industry.

- Markets in New York City that sell live chickens, turkeys, ducks and rabbits.

- Control of flies on poultry farms.

The two-day conference is sponsored jointly by Cornell's Department of Poultry and Avian Sciences and Cornell Cooperative Extension. More information about the program and registration can be obtained by phoning Baker at (607) 255-2149.