Putting Wheat Into Beef **Rations**

STATE COLLEGE (Centre) — Because of the increasing price of corn, farmers may need to find alternative, price-competitive sources of energy to put in beef cattle rations. Using wheat is one such option. In addition, prices for the new wheat crop are being reduced because of shriveled kernels and low bushel weights. The following are some specific management procedures suggested by John Comerford, Penn State Extension beef specialist, to make , the most efficient use of wheat.

Wheat is generally higher in protein than corn, but has a slightly lower energy value. Based on a corn price of \$3.50 per bushel for corn, wheat, as an alternative energy feed, is worth \$3.62 per bushel.

A conservative value for comparing corn to wheat used for energy is to first divide the price of corn per hundredweight by .97. This is the comparable price of wheat per hundredweight. Secondly, a ration for 700 pound feeder cattle, which has wheat as 50 percent of the grain, will require four percent less soybean meal to meet protein requirements, if corn silage or other high energy roughage makes up at least 15 percent of the diet. This is a significant savings in light of current soybean meal prices.

Wheat should provide no more than 50 percent of the grain in the diet because of palatability problems at higher levels. Beef cattle have a higher incidence of lactic acidosis when fed rations containing over 60 percent wheat. Buffers to reduce palatability and acidosis problems can be added at the rate of .4 pounds of sodium bicarbonate per head to the daily ration. Other management recommendations include:

- Bring up to full feed over a period of at least three weeks, which is slower than all corn rations.
- Get fiber levels in the feed to at least six percent. This can be accomplished with silage, haylage, or alfalfa hay at 10-20 percent of the diet.
- · Dry roll or coarse grind the wheat for best results. Whole wheat is 12-20 percent less effi-

cient than rolled wheat. For swine, 100 pounds of wheat can replace 98 pounds of corn and up to two pounds of soybean 'oil' meal. Hogs seem to perform equally well on wheat or corn.

Allentown Horse Judging Team

The Allentown horse judging team traveled to the Virginia Horse Center in Lexington, VA, on July 6-9, to compete in Region 15 Arabian Youth Judging. The team was ranked high overall team. Nicole Wright of New Egypt placed first individually, Diane Dancer of New Egypt placed third, Dawn Doidge of Upper Freehold placed tenth, and Allison Cottrell of Upper Freehold placed eleventh. The team competed against teams from Region, 15 which consists of a five-state area. They judged three conformation classes and two performance classes of Arabian horses and also gave three sets of reasons. The team traveled 400 miles on Thursday, practiced all day Friday for the contest to compete on Saturday, and returned on Sunday. They were accompanied on their trip by Pat Cottrell. The team was coached by Mrs. and Mr. Roszel.

Conodoquinet Sheep

The meeting of the Conodoquinet Sheep Club met July 19 at 7 p.m. at the home of Eric and Corey Berkhimer. Mr. Duff George and Mr. Nathan Mooney put on a sheep dog demonstration. They worked the sheep with three dogs. Mr. George explained to the club what the dogs were doing while Mr. Mooney used a whistle, bought from England, to guide the dogs.

The club then went to the Monroe Township building. The Shippensburg fair starts Sunday, July

23. The market animals are to be in by 12 noon. They will be weighed in between 12 and 2 p.m.

The project books are due at the Carlisle Fair. The round-up for the beef and sheep club will be held Saturday, August 12, at the fair grounds. There will be free refreshments before the sale starting at 7 p.m.

The next meeting will be held August 11 at the Carlisle Fair Grounds.

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