

# U.S. Feed Grains Council Sponsors Mexican Sheep Feeding Demo

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A sorghum sheep feeding demonstration sponsored by the U.S. Feed Grains Council (USFGC) may help solve the plight of the Monarch<sup>®</sup> butterflies in Mexico and increase exports of U.S.-produced grain sorghum.

The Council has been conducting a sheep feeding demonstration, using U.S.-produced grain sorghum.

According to William Mark, USFGC director of international operations, "In one year, the program has put 150,000 head of lamb on feed as a direct result of the demonstration, and we project up to 450,000 head on feed over the next two years.

The Mexican government became aware of the success of the Council sheep feeding demonstration and determined that it could

not only help local sheep producers, but could help save the winter habitat of the Monarchs.

Destruction of the winter habitat of the Monarchs was occurring as a result of overgrazing by local sheep producers.

"The overgrazing of the land was leading to a number of problems including soil erosion and a decline in the number trees. The Monarch butterflies winter in this region of Mexico, resting on the trees before their spring migration north," said Mark.

A subsidy program was recently started by the Mexican government, allowing peasants to participate in the Council feeding system. The results have been decreased grazing of the endangered land; increased carrying capacity of the land; increased profits for the peasants, who are now utilizing more profitable feeding systems; and environmental pro-

tection of the Monarchs winter habitat.

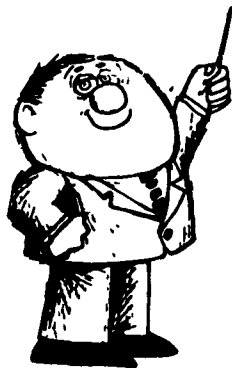
"It is not only an environmental success," Mark commented. "There is a direct link here between improving the production practices in Mexico and increasing the sales of U.S. produced feed

grains."


The Council is a private, non-profit organization that develops and expands export markets for U.S. feed grains and co-products through a network of 11 international offices.

The Council has staff in Latin

America, Europe, the Middle East, Africa and Asia. Support for the Council comes from barley, corn and sorghum producers in 22 states. The Council also receives substantial support from leading agribusiness firms across the United States.



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