

Consuming Thoughts

Fay Strickler

Penn State Extension
Home Economist
For Berks Co.



Everyone wants a watermelon to be sweet, have a deep red color with crisp flesh and minimal number of seeds. Unfortunately not all watermelons meet the high expectations of today's consumer.

Many folks are apprehensive about selecting melons because they are afraid of not getting a good one. Other people rely on incorrect techniques for selecting a melon which often results in damaging the fruit. Actually the best guide to choosing a ripe juicy watermelon is to look at the underside or belly of the melon that lay on the ground. The ground color changes from a whitish green - to white - to a creamy white - to a

yellow tinge in the white as it matures. So select one with a creamy white to yellowish white ground color.

The only sure way of getting the perfect watermelon is to buy it cut. If you decide on buying a whole watermelon, make sure the melon is symmetrical, attractive, and of good color for the variety. A melon with a pointed end or one that is misshapen generally won't be very sweet tasting. A mature melon has a bloom over the surface of the rind, giving it a velvety or dusty appearance. Too often the bloom gets rubbed off in handling and moving.

Recently I've seen shoppers thump or slap watermelons to check ripeness. Generally, this is too vague a test. The thump test is often used at harvest time in the field by a skilled person who knows what sound to expect from a particular variety. An immature melon gives a metallic ringing sound while a mature melon gives a more muffled or dead sound. The only trouble is that an over-ripe melon gives the same dull sound, so this method of testing has its limitations.

Many supermarkets cut watermelons in pieces since a whole melon is often too big for a small family. If you opt to buy a slice, choose a cut piece with a full red across the surface. Light color or streaks of white indicate immaturity. Seeds should be black or dark brown, not white, for full ripeness. For best taste, flesh should have no cracks or hollows.

In general you can figure on two-thirds to 1 pound of melon will yield about 1 cup cubed melon.

Nothing is quite as refreshing as eating a slice of ice cold watermelon or dipping into a watermelon boat filled with luscious summer

fruits. Watermelons are now at their peak and will continue to be available through October.

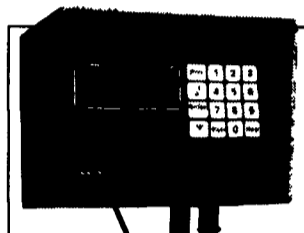
Farmers in the Know, Know Oswalt...

■ Oswalt® Polygon Mixers

The new "1000" Series design, with its superior horizontal drum and waterfall mixing action, maximizes your TMR results with an outstanding quality of mix.

■ Oswalt® TMR Roughage Masters

These rugged four-auger mixers can process and mix your ration—including dry baled hay—into a fully blended TMR... —better than anyone! And they're known for their tougher design, greater value, and an unequalled quality of mix.



■ J-Star® Electronic Scales

Dependable, with an accuracy rate of 99.5%, J-Star's new EZ Series of indicators give you total control of your feed rations. And they're EZ-ier to use, with more features & functions.



The Feedroom & Mixer Experts

Your Oswalt® Dealer is a feedroom and mixer expert. And he can help you get the most from your TMR feeding program.

Oswalt Dealerships are one-stop-shops for a full line of Jamesway® and Starline® feeders, conveyors, silo unloaders, roller mills and electric forage carts. Plus he handles Oswalt auger and drum mixers in capacities from 70 to 747 cu. ft.

Need some ideas on how to get more out of your feeding setup? Then it's best to check with an expert, and farmers in the know, know Oswalt!

OSWALT®
Mixers by J-STAR



See These Dealers
For Details Now...

PENNSYLVANIA

ERB & HENRY
EQUIPMENT INC.
New Berlinville, PA 19545
215-367-2169

LAPP'S BARN EQUIPMENT
SALES & SERVICE
Gap, PA 17527
717-442-8134

SOLLENBERGER
SILOS CORP.
Chambersburg, PA 17201
717-264-9588

HARRY TROOP
Cochranville, PA 19335
215-593-6731

SOMERSET BARN
EQUIPMENT
Somerset, PA 15501
814-445-5555

STAR SILOS
Myerstown, PA 17067
717-866-5708

PRINGLES FEED
STORE, INC.
Greenville, PA 16125
412-588-7950

ROVENDALE AG
& BARN EQUIPMENT
Watsonstown, PA 17777
717-538-9564
OR 717-742-4226

GNEGY SURGE SERVICE
Washington, PA 15301
412-222-0444

JAMES L. HOSTETTER
McVeytown, PA 17051
717-899-6386

HOOVER EQUIPMENT
Tyrone, PA 16686
814-684-1777

WALNUT BARN
EQUIPMENT
Port Royal, PA
717-436-9429

MARYLAND
GLADHILL
TRACTOR MART
Frederick, MD 21701
301-663-6060

MD & VA MILK
PRODUCERS ASSOC.
Frederick, MD 21701
301-663-6552

NEW JERSEY
GEORGE COLEMAN
Elmer, NJ 08318
609-358-8528

4H HAPPENINGS

Centre Co. 4-H Sheep Club

The Centre County 4-H Sheep Club held its monthly meeting at the Penn State University Beef and Sheep barn on June 1.

The guest speakers for the evening was Dr. Harold W. Harpster, associate professor of animal science at Penn State, who addressed the club on feeding the 4-H show lamb. After the speech, Dr. Harpster gave a short quiz and held a open discussion on answers to the quiz. Each member was given a paper called "Have A Pian" by Dr. Harpster on feed rations for the members' show lambs.

Club members were informed that 61 market lambs were weighed in, tattooed, and tagged on May 21.

A discussion was held and suggestions were given by club members on a club trip.

Committees were set up for a float and exhibit, both to take place in August at the Centre County Grange Fair.

LANTZ'S DISCOUNT GROCERIES BENEFIT SALE

105 Horsehoe Rd. - Leola, PA
Next to Skyline Drive Trailers

SAT. AUGUST 27, 1994
8:00 am Til ?

- Chicken Bar-B-Que • Subs
- Baked Goods • And More!

Rain or Shine!

NEW!

COW MATTRESSES

The Answer To Cow Comfort!

- Fits Any Stall
- Polyester Bag Filled With Rubber
- Bag Sewn Every 4" To Prevent Shifting
- Heavy Nylon Fabric Top Cover With 3 Year Warranty
- Easier for cows to get up & down
- Reduces Bedding costs
- Installation available 215-593-6959

CALL FOR DETAILS

SAMUEL S. PETERSHEIM
117 Christiansa Pike, Christiansa, PA 17509
Answering Service 215-593-2242