

# *By-Products Extend Silage Supply, Provide Good Energy Source For Steers*

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**BROGUE (York Co.)** — Food by-products are not only a good “stuffer,” making a farm’s supply of corn silage last longer to a beef herd, but cheap feed, according to one feedlot manager.

Andy Peterson, beef manager for the H.E. Heindel and Sons farm near Brogue, contracts with several area food processors to feed 1,981 head of mostly Angus crossbreds.

In operation since 1989, the beef and dairy farm is beginning to direct-market products in the farm store, Brown Cow Country Market.

The cattle are brought up as feeders at 750-900 pounds a piece from several markets in southern Virginia, the Carolinas, and Georgia.

As newcomers, the feeders are fed hay and silage the first two weeks, and then barley. Eventually a by-product total mixed ration, composed of pineapples, potatoes, corn curls, chips, and other snack foods, in addition to silage, is fed to stretch out the ration program.

The pineapple shells are delivered to the farm two to three times per week from Baltimore. Potatoes and other by-products are picked up at other locations within the area.

The material is hauled up in commercial by-product bins which can hold about 30 tons each.

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**Andy Peterson has several years of experience tending the feeder cattle at the H.E. Heindel and Sons Farm near Brogue.**

The farm feeds 1,981 head, down about 500 head from their usual count. The steers are cared for in confinement housing with alleyways. The cattle are placed in a footbath about twice per month.

The calves, on arrival, have been pretreated and vaccinated. The manure goes through floor slats directly to pits which are cleaned out four times per year, noted Peterson.

Finished steers are marketed directly to Moyer Packing (with some going to the New Holland Sales Stables auction).

Peterson, who has been managing at the Heindel farm for about four years, grew up on a dairy in Wisconsin.

Peterson noted that the food by-products have a long bunker life and can be eaten “pickled,” he said. A couple of years ago piles of by-product stood in the bunkers for months and the cattle ate the feed readily.

Using by-products “really saves on corn silage,” said Peterson.

To the cattle, the high-energy product is a real treat.

“They just love it,” said Peterson.

Especially the potatoes. For whatever reason (though probably because of palatability), if you start throwing potatoes into the feed bunk, the steers will “fight for them,” Peterson said.