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Soy Beans Cause Soft Pork Losses

Oil Meal Produces Faster, More Economical Gains, Is Expert's Version.

By Prof. Sioeter Bull, Associate Chief in Meat, College of Agriculture, University of Illinois—WNU Service.

A record crop of soy beans this year will mean heavy losses from soft pork if farmers attempt to use the whole soy bean for fattening hogs. While whole soy beans cause soft, flabby pork that is of inferior market quality, soy bean oil meal used as a supplement for corn in hog rations will make firm pork. At the same time soy bean oil meal will produce faster and more economical gains than can be obtained with whole beans.

It is suggested that farmers trade any whole beans which they would feed to hogs for soy bean oil meal, thus securing a valuable farm-grown protein supplement for their corn and at the same time avoiding the risk of soft pork losses.

It is to the advantage and profit of farmers to do everything possible to avoid soft pork, since neither shippers, feeders, meat packers, exporters nor consumers want such meat. The soft pork problem may become so serious that "soft" hogs will have to be discriminated against. A few loads of such hogs from any shipping point would be sufficient to give that territory a reputation for inferior pork, with the subsequent danger of price penalties to producers.

An added inducement for using soy bean oil meal instead of whole soy beans is the fact that it produces just as good gains as tankage and linseed meal and at present prices is more economical than these two supplements. Experiments have shown that 14 pounds of soy bean oil meal and four pounds of alfalfa meal are equal to the standard corn belt supplement of eight pounds of tankage, four pounds of linseed meal and four pounds of alfalfa meal. At present prices the soy bean oil meal would be the more economical feed.

Other experiments in Illinois, Indiana and Ohio have demonstrated that soy bean oil meal used to balance corn produces 10 to 20 per cent more rapid gains than whole soy beans, shortens the fattening period one to two months, saves 10 to 20 per cent of the feed and makes firm pork of high quality.

Corn and soy bean oil meal fed at the rate of one bushel of corn and nine pounds of soy bean oil meal with alfalfa meal makes a good ration for fattening hogs. However, a mineral mixture should always be fed when soy bean oil meal is used in swine rations. A good homemade one can be mixed from two parts ground limestone, two parts steamed bonemeal and one part salt.

Most Poisonous Plants Are Avoided by Animals

As a general rule live stock will not eat poisonous plants unless they are forced to do so because of the scarcity of other feed, or because the other feed is less nutritious, says Cecil Elder of the Missouri College of Agriculture. It may be that the other feed is less palatable or in some way fails to satisfy the animal's appetite and requirements.

In many cases overgrazing of pastures has caused animals to eat plants which they otherwise would leave alone. Fortunately, most poisonous plants are unpalatable, so that as a general rule animals do not readily eat them in sufficient quantities to be seriously injured.

There is considerable variation in different plants as to the poisonous parts and the location of the poisonous principle. It may, in some cases, be confined to the roots; in other cases to the leaves, buds, stems, or seed pods. There are changes in the toxicity of certain plants during growth and drying—some plants being most dangerous in the early growth stages while other plants lose their poisonous properties during drying or curing.

Around the Farm

Farmers of Australia will receive a government bounty of 6 cents a bushel on last season's crop.

Available data indicate that the life of a grain drill on the average farm is about twenty years.

Poor plowing, or plowing at the wrong time, may influence the condition of the soil for many years.

Best of Good Things

One of the best of the good things in life is victory and particularly moral victory.

Vitamins Needed by Farm Animals

Sun-Cured Hay of Half Alfalfa or Clover for Young Stock.

By Prof. L. A. Maynard, New York State College of Agriculture—WNU Service.

Farm animals need certain vitamins as do people; and in dairy feeds vitamins A and D need special attention. Animals on good pasture will always receive plenty of both vitamins, and the sunlight supplies vitamin D regardless of the character of the feed.

In barn feeding the needs of calves and young stock can be met by feeding sun-cured hay which is at least one-half alfalfa or clover. This feed should always be a part of the calf's ration for several other reasons.

If very poor hay must be fed, the addition of a concentrate of the vitamins to the ration may be desirable. With milking animals the main effect of feeds low in vitamins is to decrease the vitamins in the milk. Only in extreme situations is the feed so low as to affect milk production or the cow herself.

Without vitamin D the calf will suffer from rickets as do children. The most common symptoms are stiffness, swollen hocks, and a tendency of the animal to stand with the back humped.

When calves do not receive enough vitamin A their legs become swollen, they lose their appetite, growth becomes poor, they become partially blind, and a nasal discharge is likely to take place.

Proves Smutted Corn Is Not Injurious to Cattle

Whether fed dry or as silage, smutted corn will not be harmful when fed to cattle, says Dr. W. L. Boyd of the St. Paul university farm division of veterinary medicine. Corn smut is quite prevalent this year and some farmers have been fearful that this condition would be detrimental to cattle.

Doctor Boyd recommends, however, that small amounts of the corn be fed until the cattle have become used to it, so as to avoid digestive disturbances. This is always a good precaution in starting on any kind of different feed, especially when the feed may be "off" in quality.

Experiments at the South Dakota State college have indicated that smutted silage is not harmful, cows fed on such silage making good gains in weight and calving normally. Michigan experiments indicate also that smut on corn is not harmful to the health of animals.

The Kansas station relates that one farmer, believing that corn smut was likely to produce the corn stalk disease of cattle, gathered the smut from his field. One night his cattle broke into the enclosure where the smutty corn was stored and ate all they wished, with no injurious effects.

Wheat, Rye Seed Need Special Scab Treatment

Because of the epidemic of scab on small grains this year, the disinfecting of winter wheat and rye seed is especially important this fall, says Dr. J. J. Christensen, plant disease specialist, University farm, St. Paul. The scab organism also causes rotting of the seed, seedling blight, and root-rot. Seed treatment is also important for the prevention of smut of wheat and of smut and ergot of rye.

Before treating, seed should be thoroughly fanned to throw out light and diseased kernels and to eliminate smut balls and ergot bodies. When rye contains considerable ergot, fanning may not be enough. Immersing the rye in a strong brine will bring the ergot to the top where it can be skimmed off. The brine should contain 40 pounds of common salt to each 25 gallons of water. Afterwards, the rye should be washed in water to remove the excess salt.

For either rye or wheat, the treatment recommended is dusting with New Improved Ceresan at the rate of one-half ounce per bushel. Treated grain should stand for at least 24 hours before planting and may be stored for months if desired.

Center of Loveliness

Most venerated of Japan's famous cities is Yamada. Here, on the Ise peninsula, are the famous great shrines of Ise, the Naigu or Inner shrine dedicated to the goddess who is regarded as the ancestress of the Imperial family, and the ego or outer shrine, a monument to the god of the farm crops, food and sericulture.

Printing Prices Are Low in Cottage Grove.

Tremendous Trifles

By ELMO SCOTT WATSON

"HE SHOT AN ARROW—"

THE capture of the important Spanish fortress of San Lorenzo by Sir Henry Morgan, the famous English buccaneer, was not due to his expert generalship as much as it was to a strange circumstance over which he had no control.

In his command were a number of pirates. One day, during the siege of the fortress one of these men was pierced in the side by an arrow. The cutthroat pulled it from his flesh vowing to send it back to the Spaniards as fast as he could.

Wadding cotton around the end of the arrow, he crammed it into the barrel of his gun, took aim and fired. The missile went sailing over the fortress wall and was lost from view. It was merely a gesture of revenge. No one dreamed of the consequences.

But the cotton was kindled by the powder which in turn set fire to the thatched roof of a building inside the fortress. The Spaniards were frantically trying to get the flames under control when the creeping fire reached the powder magazines. They exploded, blowing part of the walls and Morgan rushed in to capture the stronghold.

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Much Goat Meat Used

Goat meat in wholesale cuts and carcass form quite generally goes into the regular mutton trade, as there is only occasional municipal restriction against such practice. In cities and towns adjacent to the range, Angora wethers are freely marketed as such and the meat is consumed without discrimination by the buyer.

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