Linseed Oilmeal Gives Best Cattle Finish

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By DON JACKSON

IT MAY NOT BE THE FAT, but some other things—nobody knows what—that put the fancy finish on cattle that are fed linseed oilmeal. That’s what experimenters are thinking now, after a test at the Iowa Station.

Three types of linseed oilmeal, hydraulic, expeller and solvent, were fed to steers during a 210-day feeding experiment. It was found that the type of linseed oilmeal made very little difference in the gains or "bloom" of the cattle, although there is considerable difference in the fat content of the three types.

The solvent process oilmeal contains only 0.7 percent fat as compared with 5.6 percent for the hydraulic process meal and 5 for the expeller process meal.

This indicates that fat has nothing much to do with the "bloom factor," or that only a small fat content is needed to supply the "bloom," says C. C. Culbertson, in charge of cattle, swine and sheep feeding experiments at the Iowa Station.

About 2 pounds a day was the average gain made by the steers fed linseed oilmeal. Those getting soybean or cottonseed meal gained a bit less than 1.9 pounds. The steers fed soybean oilmeal made just as economical gains as those receiving linseed oilmeal, but the gains of those fed cottonseed meal were slightly more expensive. Lowest-priced gain, $8.33 per hundred, was made by one lot of steers fed solvent process soybean oilmeal.

The gain of the cottonseed lot cost $9.07 per hundred, and the linseed lots ranged between that and the $8.33 lot.

The Chicago selling price on the best of the four lots fed linseed oilmeal was $10.45. Another linseed group brought $10.39, with two other groups 10 to 15 cents a hundred lower. The two soybean groups brought $10.15 and $10.35, and the cottonseed lot brought $10.05.

Poorest quality carcasses, when the steers were slaughtered, were found in one of the lots fed soybean oilmeal. In other words, the finish wasn’t there. Two points must not be overlooked when comparing oilmeals, reminds C. C. Culbertson. First, it is only with the very best cattle that it is profitable to put on "bloom." Lower grades can do without it. Second, it may be possible to feed soybean oilmeal for the greater part of the feeding period, then switch to linseed oilmeal for 30 or 60 days to obtain a fancy finish.

"We don’t know for sure just how valuable this way would be," says Culbertson, "but it would certainly do some good. And if the cattleman is feeding soybean oilmeal anyway, there would be no harm in trying linseed oilmeal for the finish."

In the South it has been discovered that grapefruit pulp and other substances give cattle a fancy smoothness that buyers of quality beef desire. It is conceivable that some day manufacturers can add some such material to soybean oilmeal, giving it the power to apply those same finishing touches that linseed oilmeal now lays on.

Hormones Speed Roots

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before the roots had a chance to get started. Junipers and arbor vitae, which are ordinarily propagated by cuttings, responded favorably to Hormodin A.

But with hardwoods we weren’t so fortunate. The reaction to Hormodin A was unfavorable, except for some peach cuttings and one variety of grape where there were observable but unimportant responses.

Cuttings which responded to treatment developed into vigorous, normal plants when potted or transplanted to nursery rows. Cost of the treatment varied with the species, but at retail prices it would cost about $1 to treat 500 to 1,000 herbaceous, greenwood or evergreen cuttings.

As we said earlier, root-promoting substances of this type are not yet ready for general farm crops, but gardeners, florists and nurserymen may often find them practical aids in commercial plant propagation.

...Making Hay

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surface by the twisting. If this twisting is repeated enough times to be sure one has representative stems, he can feel certain that his hay is not above 30 percent in moisture and is safe for the barn.

Hay baled directly from the windrow stored satisfactorily whenever the moisture was below 24 percent at the time of baling.

The value of salting hay in the mow was tested eight times with a distinctly beneficial effect only once, a slightly beneficial effect once and apparently no benefit in six trials.

Salt Stops Cannibalism

Poultry research men of the United States Department of Agriculture have reported some success in controlling cannibalism in chickens by using common salt.

Moderate amounts are generally included in poultry mash, but it is a common belief that salt is poisonous to chickens. Experiments have shown that chickens can stand more salt for several days without permanent injury than is commonly believed to be safe.

Standard poultry rations commonly contain about one-half of 1 percent of added salt. The federal research workers found that an additional 1 or 2 percent added to the diet for 4 or 5 days usually stopped cannibalism. Salt that is used in poultry rations, however, should not contain lumps as there is danger of individual birds picking up too much salt at one time.