

Are there alternatives to \$5 corn?

Bakery feeds may not be cheaper, but still save \$\$

By Rod Fee
Livestock Editor

When the corn market topped \$4—even \$5 in places this summer—livestock feeders began scrambling for alternatives. If they were cost-effective, alternatives usually didn't last long on the market.

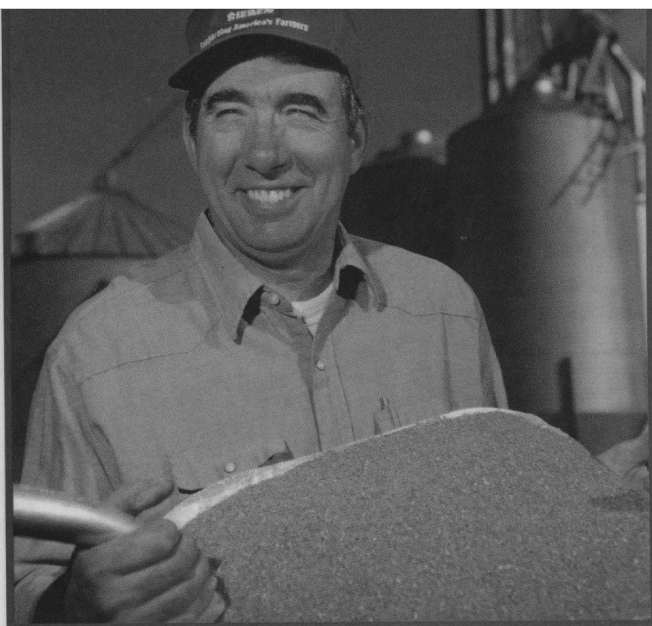
Dean Hoy, sales manager for Stickle Custom Feed, a marketer of bakery feeds in Anamosa, Iowa, said, "We've seen so much interest in bakery feeds. Even with a new plant we've had to ration new customers on occasion just to service old ones, but we're working on adding capacity."

The bakery product Hoy refers to is a byproduct of the food manufacturing industry and may include cookies, crackers, noodles, flour and breads. These ingredients are finely ground, dried and end up in swine or poultry rations. Lately, they are being used by dairy and beef producers as well.

The resulting feed ends up as a 10% protein product that is 8-9% fat and 8-

Bakery feeds

are not new for Illinois City, Illinois pork producer Bob Gochee. He's found them cost-efficient and is currently using nearly two semi-loads a week in his 700 sow farrow-to-finish operation.



11% moisture. Swine producers are adding the product at 400-800 lbs. per ton as a corn substitute, depending on where they're using it. Poultry producers may use it for up to 25% of the diet. Beef or dairy producers feed 2-4 lbs. per head per day, and may work up

Why bakery feeds?

Bakery feeds have a higher energy content than corn and thus tend to improve feed efficiency. Higher fat content reduces dust. The sugars and flavors in the feed enhance feed consumption. And most importantly, users claim the bakery alternatives can cut cost of gain.

Don't expect bakery feeds to be

cheaper per pound. For example, if corn is \$4/bu. (about \$140/ton), expect to pay about the same for bakery products. With a feed value 1.15-1.2 times that of corn, you'll get more energy and protein for your money. Pricing is based off the local corn market and can be contracted in advance.

In feeding trials with nursery pigs at the University of Georgia, it was found that bakery products would be cost effective at up to 137% of the price of corn. This would vary somewhat with local soymeal and fat prices.

When 10% bakery feeds were substituted for corn, there was no effect on performance. Other studies have found that adding up to 20% resulted in better performance than pigs on control diets without the bakery products.

Uniform product

Chris Bowie, Vita Plus nutritionist, Madison, Wisconsin, stresses the importance of composition analysis on bakery products. "They used to vary greatly, but are now much more consistent. Ration ingredient differences are much more critical in nursery pigs than finishing hogs. Today's product is actually quite uniform," says Bowie.

Ken McKay, Tipton, Iowa, a consultant for Livestock Services, Inc., has recommended bakery feeds for 3-4 years. Recently, he's seen several cattle feeders start to use the product. It has built-in preservatives, and may be a better value than corn if you're set up to mix and handle it properly. **SF**

What are alternative feeds worth?

The University of Missouri Department of Dairy Science tracks costs and availability of alternative feed sources each week, listing the current prices and locations. Barry Steevens (134 Animal Science Center, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO 65211) helps compile the values in a program they call FEEDVAL II.

These are available via computer on the Internet at: <http://etc3.ext.missouri.edu/agebb/ansci/dairy/bullet3.r>.

FEEDVAL II is designed to pro-

vide a comparative value of various feedstuffs based on the value of energy, protein, calcium, and phosphorus using corn, soybean meal, limestone and dical as the basis. The calculated values tell you the maximum you could pay for the alternative feedstuff based on current traditional feed prices.

FEEDVAL II is based on NRC nutrient guidelines for product composition and is designed to help producers and nutritionists make least-cost ration decisions when formulating rations. ■