

EXPERIMENT III -- WINTER 1948

The Use Of Loose Salt For Fattening Pigs In The Dry Lot

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At the Livestock Feeders' Day last year, data were presented on the use of loose salt in swine fattening rations when the pigs were self-fed free choice a ration of shelled corn, tankage, and alfalfa hay. It was shown that loose salt self-fed to pigs provided no advantage in producing faster gains or in improving the efficiency of the ration. In the test reported on last year the entire protein supplement, aside from the alfalfa hay, was of animal protein.

Since present-day hog supplements are largely mixtures of plant and animal protein feeds, it was thought that information would be desirable on the influence of feeding salt when a supplement of such a composition was fed.

EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURE

The protein supplement selected for self-feeding with shelled corn was made up of 40 percent tankage, 40 percent soybean oil meal, 10 percent linseed oil meal and 10 percent alfalfa meal. This provided a protein supplement of about 46 percent. This was self-fed free choice in the same feeder with the shelled corn to two lots of pigs. Lot 2 only received the loose salt. It was self-fed free choice in a separate compartment of the same feeder. The initial weight of the pigs was 61 pounds and they were fed 94 days.

The following table gives a summary of the feeding record of this experiment.

(January 13, 1948 to April 16, 1948 - 94 Days)

Ration	Shelled Corn (self-fed)	
	Tankage 40% Soybean Oil Meal 40% Linseed Oil Meal 10% Alfalfa Meal 10% (self-fed)	Tankage 40% Soybean Oil Meal 40% Linseed Oil Meal 10% Alfalfa Meal 10% Loose Salt (self-fed)
Lot Number	1	2
Number pigs in lot	10	10
Average initial weight per pig	Pounds 61.33	Pounds 61.53
Average final weight per pig	238.26	230.20
Average total gain per pig	176.93	168.77
Average daily gain per pig	1.88	1.79
Average daily ration per pig:		
Shelled corn	5.84	5.55
Protein Supplement	.66	.81
Loose salt	—	.05
Feed consumed per 100 pounds gain:		
Shelled corn	310.29	305.59
Protein supplement	35.15	45.20
Loose salt	—	3.02
Feed cost per 100 pounds gain	\$15.49	\$15.81

FEED PRICES CHARGED: Shelled corn, \$2.40 per bushel; Protein supplement, \$6.00 per cwt; Salt, \$1.00 per cwt.

OBSERVATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

1. The addition of loose salt self-fed free choice to pigs receiving shelled corn and a mixed protein supplement made up of 40 percent animal protein feed and 60 percent plant protein feeds in a dry lot, proved to be of no advantage whatsoever.
2. The daily gains were lower and the feed cost per 100 pounds gain was greater with the lot receiving the loose salt than with an identically fed lot which received no salt.
3. The salt-fed pigs consumed .05 of a pound of salt daily. Its ingestion apparently did not aid the pigs in making faster gains, nor did it decrease the cost of the gains.