

EXPERIMENT III - Winter - 1947

The Use of Loose Salt for Fattening Pigs on Corn,  
Tankage and Alfalfa Hay in the Dry Lot

C. E. Aubel

The Department of Animal Husbandry has recently received a number of requests for information on the need of salt for fattening pigs when the ration was corn and tankage with alfalfa hay or pasture. The answer to these inquiries has always been that pigs did not need salt when they received tankage or some similar protein supplement of animal origin; but if most of the protein supplement was of plant origin as soybean meal, cottonseed meal, alfalfa meal, or linseed meal, salt was advisable.

So that no doubt could arise over the necessity of feeding salt when tankage was the protein supplement, it was thought advisable to feed one lot exactly like Lot 1 in the previous experiment, but to add salt. This was expected to provide an answer to the salt question.

The following table gives a summary of the feeding record of this experiment. (see next page.)

OBSERVATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

1. Addition of loose salt self-fed free choice to pigs receiving shelled corn, tankage and alfalfa hay in a dry lot proved to be no advantage whatsoever.
2. Daily gains were lower and the cost per 100 pounds was greater with the lot of pigs receiving loose salt than with an identically fed lot which received no salt.
3. Of course the pigs ate salt when permitted to do so. However, its ingestion apparently aided in no wise the rapidity of gains and the economy of production.

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Credit is due R. B. Cathcart for weighing and allotting the pigs used in this experiment.

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(December 20, 1946 to April 9, 1947 - 110 Days)

Ration	Shelled Corn (self-fed)	
	Tankage Alfalfa Hay (self-fed)	Tankage Alfalfa Hay Loose Salt (self-fed)
Lot Number	1	2
Number pigs in lot	10	10
Average initial weight per pig	Pounds 67.45	Pounds 67.60
Average final weight per pig	262.50	251.70
Average total gain per pig	195.05	184.10
Average daily gain per pig	1.77	1.67
Average daily ration per pig:		
Shelled corn	7.12	6.78
Tankage	.45	.45
Alfalfa hay	.27	.21
Loose salt	----	.04
Feed consumed per 100 pounds gain:		
Shelled corn	401.84	400.48
Tankage	25.63	26.84
Alfalfa hay	15.27	12.83
Loose salt	----	2.46
Feed cost per 100 pounds gain	\$11.77	\$11.78

FEED PRICES CHARGED: Shelled corn, \$1.40 per bushel;  
Tankage, \$120.00 per ton;  
Alfalfa hay, \$25.00 per ton;  
Salt, \$0.65 per cwt.

METHODS OF FEEDING: Both lots were self-fed free choice shelled  
corn, tankage and alfalfa hay. Lot 2 only,  
received loose salt self-fed in a separate  
compartment.