



Krichau Comments



Cheryl Krichau,
StateLine Cooperative
Feed Department
Manager

Halfa feed mill construction near complete

The feed team at StateLine Cooperative is excited to be winding down the construction of the new feed mill. The past year has gone quickly and it's hard to believe that we start production in Halfa in just a few weeks. The construction crews are putting the finishing touches on the equipment; the bin is up and they are completing the last stages of wiring. It has been quite a journey to get from an old wooden elevator to the facility we have today.

Our open house for the facility is scheduled for Sept. 16, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Please join us and tour StateLine Cooperative's

(Continued on page 2.)

Progress

Preparing for Pellets

By Mark A. Giesemann, Ph.D., Technical Sales Specialist, Purina Animal Nutrition LLC

In StateLine Cooperative Feed Department's March Progress newsletter Dennis Short, Ph.D., Purina Animal Nutrition LLC, presented recent data which illustrated how effective pellets are in improving the rate and efficiency of growth of growing pigs. I have chosen to present these data by DeJong and others from Kansas State again because it illustrates the advantages of pellets in high fiber diets so well.

This study utilized high fiber diets (30% DDGS and 20% midds) and ground the feed to low-particle size. The treatments are as follows:

1. Roller mill corn to about 650 micron fed in meal form;
2. Hammer mill corn to about 320 micron fed in meal form;

3. Treatment 2, but in pellet form;
4. Treatment 1, but the complete diet reground through a hammer mill to about 360 micron fed in meal form; and
5. Treatment 4 fed in pellet form (note Stateline's new feed mill at Halfa will use rollermill technology, not hammer mills as used in this study.)

As you can see, pigs fed the pelleted, finely ground diets had the highest growth rate and lowest feed:gain ratio.

The advantages to pelleting are many. Pelleting opens up the door for more ingredients. Because fiber is digested better after pelleting, we can utilize more high fiber ingredients when feeding the pig, without compromising performance. High fiber feed ingredients can challenge

Pelleting feed for pigs

Treatment	1	2	3	4	5
Initial wt., lb.	56.5	56.6	56.6	56.5	56.6
Final wt., lb.	270.7	275.6	276.8	268.5	285.3
ADG, lb.	2.02	2.06	2.11	1.99	2.17
ADFI, lb.	5.70	5.57	5.47	5.46	5.63
F/G	2.82	2.71	2.6	2.74	2.60
Removal/Pen%	6.6	8.8	4.1	2.3	12.9
Mkt. Wt./Pig Placed, lb.	254.4	252.8	269.7	262.7	250.4

J.A. DeJong et al., 2012 Kansas State University

Krichau Comments (cont.)

Halfa Feed Mill during the open house, as we will have stringent biosecurity protocols in place for entry into the facility once we start manufacturing feed.

Our team plans to start manufacturing meal feed the week of Sept. 16 to test all equipment before starting the pelleting process the first week of October. We are already testing grain receiving equipment, and have corn on hand in preparation for start-up of the feed mill.

Now, our focus is on transitioning not only StateLine Co-op, but also our producers, to pelleted feed. We realize that for many who have not had the ability to feed pellets in the past that this is a management change for optimizing nutrition and on-farm feed handling.

We strive to make this transition as smooth as possible to provide the best customer experience we can. Please let us know what we can do to assist you as you move to pellets.

We hope to see you at StateLine Cooperative's Halfa Feed Mill on Sept. 16!

feed flowability and bulk density – pelleting addresses those problems, too.

Many producers have focused on feed particle size to improve feed conversion, however, that has its limits because of feed flowability. Here again, pelleting can help with those problems, maximizing feed efficiency. Feed pelleting prevents segregation of particles within the feed distribution system. Also pelleting prevents pigs from sorting feed particles (yes, pigs can sort their feed). Furthermore, running feed through a hot pellet mill may help destroy potential feed pathogens. So the value proposition with pellets is not a simple proposition but comes from many different facets.

Yes, pelleting has a lot of potential for helping to improve rate of gain and reduce feed cost/lb gain. But we can't just take for granted that this technology will manage itself. Additional management on your part will help you maximize the benefit you receive from pelleting diets. Research suggests that poor quality pellets result in very little improvement in feed efficiency. Most of that response is probably due to the difficulty in adjusting feeders. The staff at the new feedmill is dedicated to producing a good pellet using their up-to-date, state-of-the-art technology. In addition to that, extra time and attention to detail in feeder management will help you maximize the feed efficiency response to pellets.

Referring back to the data presented in the table, note the removal rate on the finest ground diet that was pelleted, was quite high. This illustrates a component that we must manage – the risk of ulcers with pellets. Fine grinding feed and pelleting both increase the risk of ulcers so we must be diligent in detecting these potential problems and plan on how to manage them. We do believe that the roller mill at the Halfa Feed Mill will provide lower feed particle size variability versus hammer mills, and help protect or reduce ulcer risk.

What happens if my pigs show signs of ulcers?

Do you know what pigs with ulcers look like? Pigs with ulcers become pale, have reduced growth rate or wasting, and may have dark stools. Talk to your veterinarian about how to

detect ulcers early. Train your barn staff to recognize these signs. Understand the factors that reduce intake such as out of feed events and disease may dramatically increase ulcer risk.

What happens if my pigs show signs of ulcers? Talk to your Stateline Cooperative feed staff about intervention plans if your pigs encounter ulcers. We are beginning to understand that some genetics may be more prone to ulcers than others. For these reasons some producers are building a meal diet "break" into their feed budgets to address this issue.

Preparing for pellets

- ◆ Focus on feeder adjustment
- ◆ Train to recognize ulcers early
- ◆ Develop an ulcer intervention plan
- ◆ Participate in pellet advantages!

In the study, we have mentioned earlier pigs fed pelleted diets had increased income over feed costs in comparison to meal feeds. Even though pelleting may increase ulcer risk, it will pay dividends in improved pig performance.

More and more pigs are being fed pelleted diets every day. Pellets improve pig performance and profitability due to a variety of factors. Stateline Cooperative is proud of their ability to bring this technology to you. Their staff can work with you to help incorporate this technology and help you cash in on the advantages!

Make plans to attend
StateLine Cooperative's

Halfa Feed Mill Open House

September 16,
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Martin County Pork Producers
will serve pork chops on a stick!