

Agricultural Experiment Station
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 Publication

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DIRECTOR

to

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
 AGRICULTURE
 AGR 101



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 AGRIC. ENG. DEPT.

Table 3. Two-year results with whole vs. rolled oats.

Data on:	whole oats		rolled oats	
	1969-70	1970-71	1969-70	1970-71
Agv. initial weight per head	370.6	432.1	370.0	430.7
Avg. final weight per head	1005.6	1065.0	1060.7	1101.4
Days fed	314	331	314	331
Avg. daily gain per head	2.02	1.91	2.20	2.03
Hot carcass weight per head	571.9	618.0	636.1	656.4
Avg. dressing per cent	56.87	58.03	59.97	59.60
Avg. grade	7.38	10.10	9.29	10.14
Feed cost per hundred-pound gain	\$14.26	\$16.03	\$13.19	\$15.37

Summary

These trials show that the high quality calves produced by North Dakota farmers and ranchers can be self-fed economically from weaning to slaughter, using oats and hay plus minerals.

Although rolled oats has given the best returns of the three rations fed in the trials reported here, rate of gain, feed efficiency and carcass quality have been satisfactory for all three rations.

Until the calves reached a weight of 600 pounds, gains were as good with whole oats as they

were with rolled or ground oats. Beyond this growth stage, processed feed produced the best gains. About 80 pounds less feed was required to produce 100 pounds gain with both ground and rolled oats.

It should be emphasized that calves in these trials are vaccinated for blackleg and malignant edema, and for type C and D enterotoxemia (over-eating disease) before being fed high energy rations.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

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Until more disease and insect resistant varieties become available, growers can minimize losses through management practices. Crop rotation, plowing down sunflower refuse in the fall, early season control of volunteer plants, destruction of wild sunflowers and timely application of approved insecticides will help to minimize losses.

Sunflowers are particularly attractive to birds and considerable damage has resulted in isolated fields. A chemical repellent is now under study.

Visitors are always welcome to visit the research plots located on the NDSU farm crops research site west of the campus, either on formally organized tours or by appointment with sunflower researchers.