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Wheat as a Feed for Swine

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WHEAT

as a feed for swine



Cooperative Extension Service: South Dakota
State University and U. S. Department of Agri-
culture with Cooperation of the South Dakota
Wheat Commission

Wheat as a Feed for Swine

By Richard C. Wahlstrom, Professor of Animal Science and
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Table 1. Equivalent Value of Grains for Growing-Finishing Pigs

Feed	Relative feeding value, %	Approximate value per bushel when a bushel of wheat is worth:					
		\$1.00	\$1.20	\$1.40	\$1.60	\$1.80	\$2.00
Wheat	100	\$1.00	\$1.20	\$1.40	\$1.60	\$1.80	\$2.00
Corn	100	.93	1.12	1.31	1.49	1.68	1.87
Barley	95	.76	.91	1.06	1.22	1.37	1.52
Sorghum grain (milo)*	95	.88	1.06	1.24	1.42	1.60	1.78
Oats	90†	.48	.58	.68	.77	.86	.96

*Bushel weight of 56 lb.

†When limited to less than 30% of the grain.

Wheat is about equal to corn in energy value, palatability, and digestibility. Its protein content varies more but is considerably higher than corn. At the same time, wheat lacks certain amino acids, just as corn does. We recommend that you use the same amount of protein supplement with wheat as with corn. It is also necessary to supplement the ration with vitamins and minerals.

Table 1 gives the equivalent value of wheat compared to other grains for growing-finishing pigs. You can use wheat as all or part of the cereal grain in swine feeds. It is best to grind and mix wheat as a complete ration, though you can self-feed it as whole grain with supplement free-choice.

Suggested rations with wheat are shown in Table 2. You can substitute corn for all or any part of the wheat in these rations on a pound per pound basis without changing the other ingredients.

Wheat that has been damaged by disease, insects, frost, or fire can be fed to swine. It will be worth less than good quality wheat, and its exact value will depend on extent of damage. Such wheat may be less palatable and may have less nutritional value. Therefore, it is best to mix it with another cereal grain in the ration.

Table 2. Swine Rations Containing Wheat

Ingredient	Grower	Finisher	Gestation
Wheat, ground	770	885	753
Soybean meal (44%)	205	92	40
Alfalfa meal (17%)	---	---	150
Meat meal (50%)	---	---	40
Dicalcium phosphate	10	9	10
Calcium carbonate	8	7	---
Salt, trace mineral (1% zinc)	5	5	5
Premix*	2	2	2

*The vitamin antibiotic premix should supply the following per pound of ration: 1,000 I.U. vitamin A; 100 I. U. vitamin D; 10 I. U. vitamin E; 1.5 mg. riboflavin, 5 mg. pantothenic acid, 8 mg. niacin, 100 mg. choline, and 7.5 mcg. vitamin B₁₂. Antibiotics may be fed at 20 mg. per ton in the Grower, 10 gm. per ton in the Finisher and omitted from the Gestation Ration.



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