Citrus Pulp for Poultry Litter and Its Subsequent Feeding Value for Ruminants

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EXPERIMENT 1: MATERIALS USED FOR POULTRY LITTER

During the past few years it has been increasingly difficult to obtain satisfactory litter for poultry houses. The situation has resulted from increased production of poultry, and the demand from other industries for materials used as a source of litter. This has prompted research which has shown that many new materials can be used as a source of litter.

Blount (1962) found that chicks reared on feather meal litter had much improved body weights and feed conversion as compared to chicks reared on wood shavings. This difference was explained on the basis that chicks reared on the feather meal litter were free from semi-impactions of the gizzard.

Trail (1963) compared feathers, coffee bean husks, hessian, wood shavings, and dried grass as sources of litter for chicks. He concluded that coffee husks and shavings were the best of the five materials for use as poultry litter. He suggested that the differences in performance of chicks reared on the five types of litter might be due to the fact that the birds were eating more of some litter than others.

Particle size appears to be an important consideration in selecting a litter for broilers. Smith (1956) reported that corn cobs were a good source of litter for growing broilers. However, he found that corn cobs with a particle size less than ⅜ inch in diameter were more suitable for litter than coarser materials. The use of the coarser materials resulted in more breast blisters in the broilers. Aho et al. (1955) found that wood chips were satisfactory for poultry litter when they were 1 to 2 inches in circumference, and were preferred to chips 3 to 4 inches in circumference.

Andrews and McPherson (1963) compared straw, sugar cane

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