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COTTONSEED

DEFINITION

Cottonseed is simply the seed produced from the cotton plant. It is located within the cotton bowl along with the cotton fibers. It is removed from the fiber during the ginning process and has become the most profitable by-product of the cotton plant.

DETAILS

- Cottonseed is the most valuable and profitable by-product of the cotton plant because of its wide array of uses and the quantity that is yielded after each ginning process.
- Whole cottonseed contains high levels of protein and fiber, making it an excellent feed additive for dairy and beef cattle. Its high energy yield gives dairy cattle a boost in their milk producing abilities and helps beef cattle gain muscle and weight. It can also be processed into many valuable products.
- The hulls of the cottonseed (the outer layer of the seed) may also be used as a feed additive for cattle. They contain mostly fiber (44-50%) and help add bulk and volume to livestock feed. This cuts down on feed costs, especially in drier areas where higher quality roughage and grazing may not be available. They may be sold in pelleted or loose form.
- Cottonseed hulls can also be used in the making of some plastics and rubbers, adding volume and strength to the material.
- Finely ground meal made from cottonseed is a valuable livestock feed additive because of its high levels of protein (about 41%). It is often used as a protein supplement to boost energy for cattle, pigs, sheep, poultry, shrimp and catfish.
- Hulls and meal are themselves by-products of the processing of cottonseed oil.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- ADM
<http://www.admworld.com>
- PYCO Industries, Inc
Lubbock, Texas
806-747-3434
<http://www.pycoindustries.com>

STORY IDEAS

- Contact local gins about their cottonseed yield each crop year and how it impacts their operation.
- Interview local livestock owners about the impact cottonseed additives have on their cattle.
- Try to find a variety of operations in your area that use or sell cottonseed for some specific use or purpose (such as shrimp or catfish feed in East Texas, cattle feed additives in West Texas or plastics manufactures in metro areas).

IMPACT

- Cottonseed sales contribute significantly to each gin's income and to the local economy.
- The use of cottonseed for livestock feed additives has, in some cases, greatly reduced feed costs for cattle owners.
- Cottonseed is the most sought after by-product of the ginning process and brings the highest price when bought from the gin.