

Animal Research

The major work underway with hogs is the swine breeding research project. This study is being conducted in cooperation with the Regional Swine Breeding Laboratory, an organization which makes available the research facilities of a dozen Universities in the North Central region of the nation as well as those of the United States Department of Agriculture. Two new breeds of hogs have been developed at this Station--the Minnesota No. 2 and the Minnesota No. 4. The breeding program currently in progress attempts to further improve these breeds, and, at the same time, to study the genetics involved in the transmission of traits from one generation to the next. Research in nutrition has emphasized the most efficient use of barley in finishing rations for swine. In addition, extensive studies involving amino acid supplementation of barley rations have been in progress for several years. Prewaning rations, gestation rations and nursing rations are all in various stages of investigation at the Station.



The sheep breeding project constitutes the major avenue of research, although lamb feeding and ewe management studies are also in progress. The Station flock of 200 purehead Shropshire ewes was closed in 1937 and has been bred from within this group continuously. Selection has been strictly on a performance basis, and while the level of inbreeding has gradually increased, general flock performance has improved. A cross-breeding project is being conducted concurrently with the inbreeding study. Lamb feeding trials have been initiated recently in order to evaluate various types of feeding regimes.

Nutritional studies are conducted annually with turkey flocks in confinement and under range conditions. About 2,000 birds are used to evaluate a variety of feed supplements and ration mixtures. Another portion of the flock is used in the "Blackhead" studies, where experimental medications are tested for their effectiveness in the control of this disease. These projects are conducted with the cooperation of the Poultry Department at the main campus and with the Poultry Department at the main campus and with the College of Veterinary Medicine in St. Paul.

