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Mixed Feed and the Kansas Feeding-Stuffs Law.

Mixed feeds have always been the medium through which the most flagrant frauds in the feeding-stuffs business have been perpetrated. Oat hulls, rice bran, ground corn-cobs, and other waste products of little or no feeding value have been systematically incorporated in such feeds. The value of mixed feeds cannot be estimated by a purchaser with much assurance of satisfactory results. In the case of pure feeds, the consumer can, to a degree, judge for himself, notwithstanding the considerable variations to which even they are subject in respect to composition and, consequently, feeding value. Mixed feeds have therefore always come under feeding-stuffs laws and have, indeed, received special attention.

The Kansas law requires that feeding-stuffs that have been subjected to any mixing process, or subjected to any process whereby the character of the original material is altered, shall be registered with the Director of the Experiment Station if sold, offered for sale or held for sale within the State of Kansas. It further provides that every sack or other package held for sale or sold within the State shall bear a distinct brand and conspicuous label in the English language, which shall state the name of the manufacturer or seller, the registered name, trade-mark or other designation of the feed, the net weight of the package, and a guaranty as to the percentage of fat and of protein.

It must be distinctly recognized that this provision has no bearing upon mixtures made for one for his own use, whether the user mixes the feed with his own hands, has it done by his hired man, or orders it done by a dealer. A consumer may, for his own use, order any mixture whatever made by a dealer, and the law has no application to the transaction. If he is feeding a ration to his animals he is thus able to modify it at any time and in any way that he sees fit. The law, hampers him in no way whatever as long as the mixture made is not offered for sale.

While dealers are thus permitted to mix feeds in any way that may be wished by a purchaser upon his special order, he has no right to anticipate orders and mix feeds in advance, holding them in stock until purchased. Any mixture of feeds thus kept on hand by a dealer is subject to all of the provisions of the law as designated above.

Attention may be drawn to the fact that wheat bran mixed with wheat screenings, corn bran or other, foreign substances must be regarded as a mixed feed, and its manufacturers are required to comply with the law as applied to mixed feeds. So, too, corn bran may not be mixed with corn-chop without subjecting it to all of these provisions.

A clear recognition of the provisions of the law and rulings thereunder on the part of both dealers and consumers will, it is believed, enable business to be done in accordance with the law and with a minimum of annoyance and expense consistent with protection from fraud. As with all laws, however, the honest and upright are in part obliged to bear the trouble and cost of restraining the dishonest and fraudulent.

J. T. WILLARD,
Chemist Experiment Station.

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