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Don McKee and Fred Husby, interviewees

Karen Cedzo, interviewer

1981

Series: University focus series

Don McKee said they started raising hogs about twenty years ago. About ten years ago they expanded their hog operation to about 40 sows to make a slaughterhouse operation feasible which they had to have to market the meat. McKee runs a family owned 300 head pork production on Chena Hot Springs Road. McKee and Fred Husby have been involved in a project that indicates a possible relationship between agriculture and the fishing industries in the state. They are looking at a crab meal ration as a protein supplement developed by Husby to replace more costly feed imported from the lower forty-eight. Husby said shortly after he arrived in 1975 he went out to visit with McKee who was and still is a major swine producer in the state. McKee had mentioned the Department of Commerce and Economic Development had approached him about trying a new product that was being put out by the fishing industry. It was a crab meal. The fishing industry had started to process crab and fish waste at three locations in the state to meet the Environmental Protection Agency effluent guidelines in accordance with the 1972 Federal Water Quality Control Act. They did this to meet the guidelines and to produce a product to sell on the Outside. There was very little interest in crab meal at this time as a livestock protein supplement for feed. In the past it was reported to be completely unpalatable to livestock. There was reluctance in the farming community to include it in their rations without some database to go on. The seafood waste processors were having a difficult time marketing the product in Seattle with a lack of data. McKee said his swine are doing really well, it is comparable to other rations and it is palatable for the little pigs on up. Their yield has been outstanding. Husby said feed ingredients had to be imported from the outset to formulate livestock rations. With the advent of the Delta barley project they have their own energy source. They can replace the soybean meal with the crab meal at a much-reduced cost because it is an in-state product. The result is about a dollar forty reduced cost per hundred pounds of swine rations.

Karen Cedzo talked about the campus calendar and activities