



# PORK BRIEFS

The Latest Information  
on Swine Nutrition



## CORN IS GRINDING FINER

By Ken Palen

Just a caution! On many farms the corn grind or particle size of the corn after grinding is a bit too fine. Typically we target for a range of 600 to 800 microns for corn particle size after grinding. For whatever reason the finer particle sizes started showing up right after corn harvest. The first thoughts were that it could be due to the freshness of the corn or the little bit of extra moisture in the corn, but the phenomenon of the finer particle size is continuing as we move through the winter.

So why be concerned? There are several concerns with feeding corn to pigs that is too finely ground. It is well known that grains ground with finer particle sizes can improve nutrient absorption by allowing enzymes to break the smaller particle sizes easier. But! The finer particles can also encourage keratinisation or erosion of the digestive tract tissues which may result in ulcers in pigs. Other research also indicates that with finer ground grains more bacterial gut problems, like salmonella and others, may surface. At the very least the finer ground material may bridge up in feed bins or pig feeders resulting in pigs going on and off feed which can also result in more ulcers. It has also been shown that very finely ground feed can result in lower feed intakes resulting in a poorer feed efficiency due to slower growth of



pigs and therefore a higher maintenance requirement. Depending on the combination of irritants or feed restrictions, pigs may also exhibit more tail biting, flank biting or other signs of

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By: Ken Palen

### It's a fact - Another Kenpal Customer has Success with Lacta-Fat™

**Lacta-Fat in the Lactation Sow Diet has increased the sows milk production and increased litter weaning weight by over 10%.**

**Kevin Van Bakel  
Dublin, Ontario**



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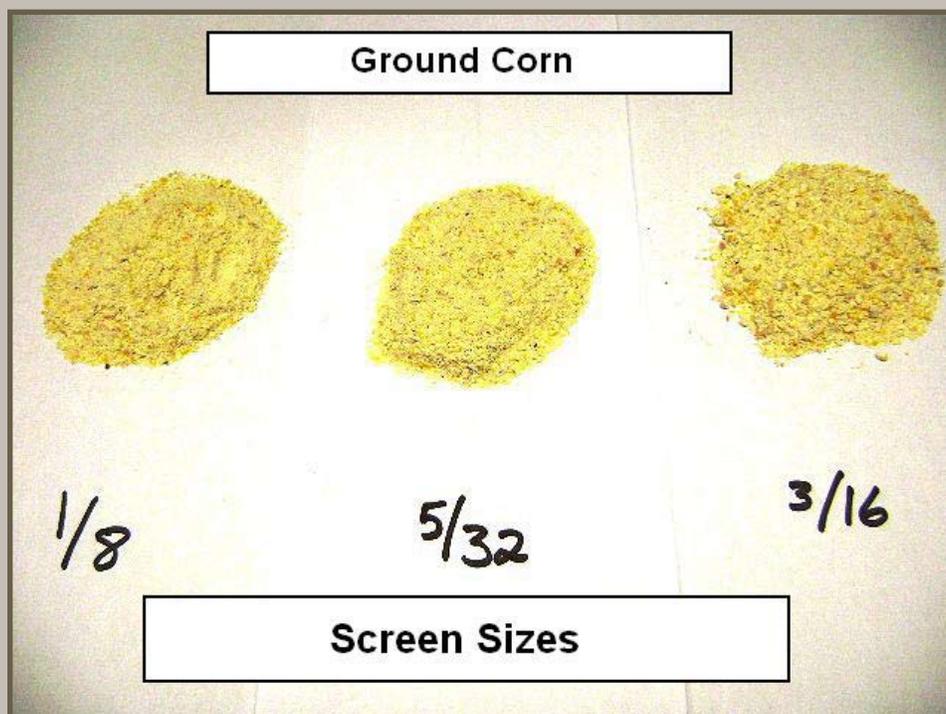
an unsatisfying environment. Depending on the type of equipment used to grind the corn some adjustments to the screen sizes used may be needed. If the corn is ground too fine, 600 microns or less, a larger screen size may be required. This decision can also be impacted by the condition of the hammers and the condition of the current screen used plus the speed in which you are grinding. Slower grind speed usually results in more uniformity but not all systems have the luxury of slowing down the mill. **Table I** below shows the screen sizes, commonly used on farms in Ontario, from the smallest size on top to the largest size on the bottom.

**Table I: Screen Sizes (inches)**

Screen Size	Smallest
1/8	
5/32	
3/16	
7/32	
1/4	

In the past, 1/8 to 5/32 size screens (the smaller ones) were the most commonly used. This year we have to move to 3/16 or 7/32 with the odd farm having to go to 1/4 in order to achieve a resulting corn size of 600 to 800 microns.

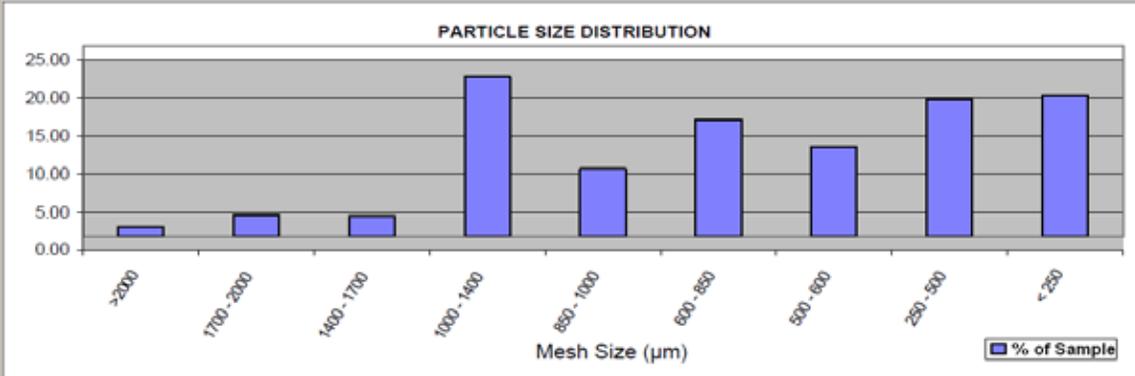
The picture below shows ground corn from the same mill using three different screens: 1/8, 5/32 and 3/16. It is very hard to see by looking at the picture, the difference between the 1/8 and 5/32 screen. The coarser corn does show slightly in the sample using the 3/16 screen.



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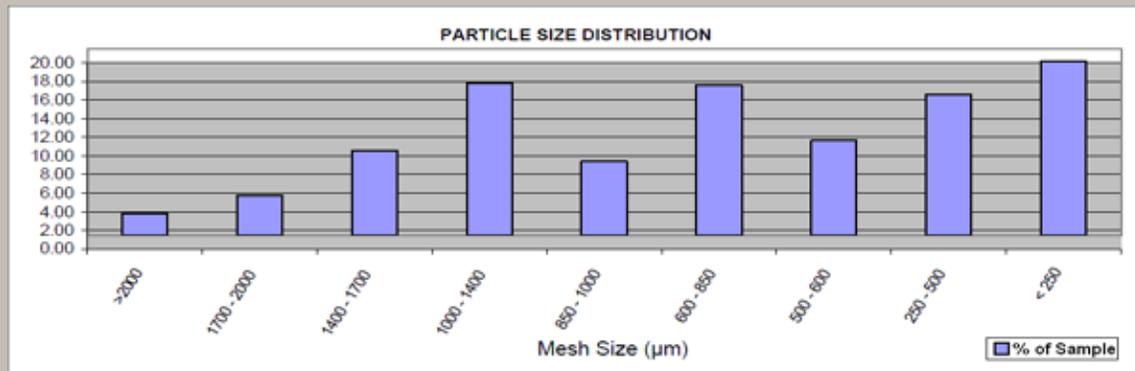
The samples of the different screen sizes were submitted to Agri-Food Lab for particle size. The axis on the bottom shows the different sieve sizes with the smallest on the left and the largest on the right. The axis on the left shows the percent. The bars show the percent of the feed sample that is in each sieve size that is measured. The average particle size is shown under each graph as well as the standard deviation. The target standard deviation is 2.0. The final analyses were as follows:

### **1/8 Screen**



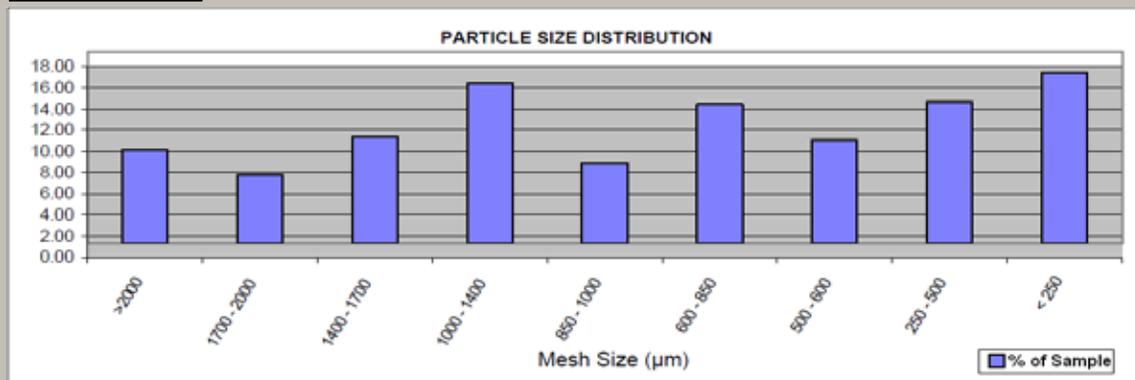
Average Particle Size: 543 µm  
Standard Deviation: 2.23

### **5/32 Screen**



Average Particle Size: 585 µm  
Standard Deviation: 2.34

### **3/16 Screen**



Average Particle Size: 685 µm  
Standard Deviation: 2.45

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One of the most comprehensive corn particle size studies was done in Ontario back in 1996 with Kenpal Farm Products Inc. collaborating with the University of Guelph (Dr. Bob Friendship). A total of 93 Ontario farms using hammer mills provided ground corn samples that were tested for particle size. The resulting analyses ranged from 690 to 1497 microns. Only 30% of the samples were in the desired range of 600 to 800 microns. This study indicated then and is still probably true today that a wide range in corn particle size exists on Ontario farms today.

With Kansas State University research indicating that an improvement in feed efficiency of 1 to 1 ½% occurs with every 100 micron reduction in feed grind it pays to know whether your corn is ground too coarse or if maybe this year it is ground too fine.

Thank You!

## SOW SUPPLEMENT



*Helping to minimize body weight loss  
and maximize weaning weights*

**Here is what swine producer John Van Dorp has to say about sowSTART sow supplement:**

John and Karen Van Dorp and sons operate a 180 sow farrow-to-finish operation near Woodstock, ON. sowSTART has become a regular part of their lactation feeding program:

"On a four week weaning program, sowSTART has helped keep sow condition by maximizing intake while increasing milk production, resulting in heavier weaning weights. Since using sowSTART we have noticed our sows breed back in a timely fashion which enables us to keep our crates full and maximize production. In these tough economic times, this is one product we would not be without, it definitely pays for itself."

John Van Dorp  
Woodstock, Ontario



John & Karen Van Dorp

**the** **START** **line**™

## SELLING THE SALEABLE MEAT

By Ken Palen

This is the time of year that us involved in agriculture get to mix with the city folks and our relatives at seasonal festive parties, family dinners and just good old visits with friends. This season in particular I have been listening very closely to the questions and comments these folks are sharing about farming in general. Most of the people I meet know that I am involved with feeding livestock. What they do not know is that I am one of less than 2% of the general population that is involved in and know much about agricultural practices and probably less than 1% of the population that knows much about today's livestock practices. These folks usually take a quick moment in our communications to ask respectfully how farmers are doing these days and a few of the people show sympathy for the low prices they have heard that pig farmers are getting. The conversations then quickly move on to talk about their own jobs and how their families are doing, their concerns about others being laid off, the money they lost in the RRSP market or the overall state of the economy, and so on.

For those who do ask me questions about meat, I am shocked by the number of people asking me why meat has so many drugs and chemicals in it, and where can they buy meat without chemicals and drugs. I then go into a calm survival mode and explain to these folks that all meat raised in Canada is drug residue free and the farmers raising this meat look after these animals really well, in fact they eat this meat themselves and feed it to their own children. In other words I explain they can be assured that if they eat Canadian meat they won't light up like a Christmas tree.

To the 98% of the folks, not directly connected to agriculture, that we sell the saleable meat to we have a unique marketing challenge. Consumers make their buying decisions based on the weekend grocery store flyers, the 6:00 p.m. news, the smell in the country air and the few conversations with the 1 or 2% of us that happen to visit with them at seasonal parties or family get together. With the short term trend of Canadian meat consumption dropping, I question how much long term damage we may be doing advertising "antibiotic free meat" when to the best of my ability to understand, all our meat is antibiotic free at point of sale. My other concern is how I am going to answer the next question my city friend or relative may ask; where they can buy humanely raised meat. Am I supposed to tell them that most of the industry beats the animals daily with a stick but for 50 cents more a pound you can buy meat that was bedded and not beaten. Or do I kick back into my calm survival mode and explain to my friend or relative that all meat in Canada is raised humanely and farmers very much care for their animals. They love these creatures and that is why they are willing to work 7 days per week to supply meat and food for this wonderful seasonal party that we are enjoying. I could also elaborate further and explain that my concern is more with the meat that is imported from other countries and how inhumanely the human workers are treated in these countries in order to produce cheap meat while doing the best job they can looking after the animals. The meat marketers may want to ask the oil industry or the car industry what happens when you promote added value where no added value exists at inflated prices for short term gain. I think we are all seeing the results of this marketing program now.

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So let me propose we all start "Selling the Saleable Meat" by implementing a strategy producing the "HIGHEST VALUE OF SALEABLE MEAT". This term was proposed by John Gadd in his book; Pig Production in 2005. I wrote an article in August 2006 suggesting ways we can use the term. Some examples may be highest value of saleable meat per tonne of feed or per kilo of feed or per kilogram of any ingredient in the feed or per sq meter of barn space or per hour of labour, etc. This may then lead us to describing our business as not the pig business but the pig meat business or the barbeque pork business or the bacon business or the ham business and so on. We can also have fun in the coffee shop with our pork meat producing neighbours discussing, who had the Highest Value of Saleable Meat per Sow per Year.

## Summary

In summary usually out of a bad experience like the industry is going through come good changes. Challenging all of us in the business of selling the saleable meat with new ideas and re-hashing old ideas may bring forth positive change for the future.

Taking time to visit with the folks not involved in agriculture, in a positive way. Explaining the good things we do to nurture and protect our livestock from predators and disease so that our animals enjoy their cycle of life to the fullest and provide our farm families with a good living and precious food for our city neighbours. Thank you for taking the time to read these thoughts.



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## PIGLET MILK REPLACER 24/18



***With larger litter sizes, comes the need for a solution to feed smaller piglets.***

**Here is what swine producer Brian McNichol has to say about firstSTART P Piglet milk replacer:**

*We have worked with Kenpal for all our feed since the mid 1980's and when we were looking for a new supplier for piglet milk replacer, Ken suggested we give their new milk replacer product firstSTART P a try.*

*We find that firstSTART P works just as well as the other milk replacers available and at a better price. With other products we have tried the piglets look swollen, but with firstSTART P they fatten up nicely!*

*We use the milk replacer with the piglets that fall back on the sows. With the larger litters we see, it is important to have this option available and we find that these runt piglets can usually be weaned at the same time as the rest of the litter.*

Brian McNichol  
Blyth, Ontario



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