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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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FISH PRODUCTS ARE EXCELLENT SOURCE OF ANIMAL GROWTH FACTORS

Several of the newly discovered growth-promoting vitamins of the so-called APF or "animal protein factor" are found in effective quantities in fish meals and condensed fish solubles, technologists of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service reported today.

Condensed fish solubles and fish meals were rated as the best natural sources of the mysterious growth-stimulating vitamins at recent scientific meetings in Philadelphia and Atlantic City. Besides the new vitamin B₁₂, fish products contain factors similar to the antibiotic aureomycin as well as an unidentified vitamin otherwise found only in liver and dried yeast. These are all part of the animal protein factor.

Fish products not only contain many necessary vitamins, according to the Fish and Wildlife Service report, but are also good sources of protein and certain nutritionally essential minerals—particularly calcium, phosphorous, iron and copper.

Condensed fish solubles are usually included in concentrate feeds for poultry and swine at a level of two percent, and fish meals at a level of four to six percent of the ration. The products act as a safety factor to protect the animal against occasional serious deficiencies of specific nutrients in other feeds—which may be caused by poor storage conditions or processing. They may also protect animals against the effects of unfavorable environment, bad weather or infections.

Fish meals and condensed solubles come principally from menhaden and pilchard fisheries, but many other species seldom used for human food, as well as heads, tails, and viscera of fish from canning and filleting operations, are also utilized.

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