

BOOK REVIEW

Tropical Feeds by Bo Gohl, 1975. 661 pages (U.S. \$14.00). Published by Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome.

Tropical Feeds goes a long way towards providing a comprehensive monograph on grasses, by-products, root crops, cereals etc. which are of importance as animal feeds in tropical and subtropical countries. Information on this subject is widely scattered throughout the scientific literature and publication of this book follows the recommendation of the Expert Panel of Animal Nutrition in Gottingen that the Animal Production and Health Division of FAO should collect and publish this data. 652 different feeds are described.

Each feed is identified by the botanical name and by many local names; all are listed in the 77 page index. Under each heading there is a very helpful description of the way each feed is produced and its suitability for different classes of stock. This is followed by a table listing the proximate analysis, calcium and phosphorus percentages for all studies on the feed together with a description of the conditions under which it was produced, the country of origin and the source of the information. For some feeds 17 different results are shown but wisely the author has made no attempt to present mean values.

The digestibility and TDN values for all feeds are given in one table covering 26 pages. Most books on feeds also list the levels of digestible nutrients but in *Tropical Feeds* this is unfortunately omitted. The amino-acid, vitamin and mineral levels of feeds are also shown.

The results of over 500 studies are described in this book but the list is by no means comprehensive. The hundred or so Australian publications on tropical feeds have been almost completely overlooked, for some unexplained reason, and no results are presented for the important tropical legume, Siratro (*Macropitium atropurpureum*). Despite this limitation *Tropical Feeds* will be a very useful source of information and will undoubtedly become a standard reference book.

D.J. MINSON