Data previously reported in several studies have suggested that phytase improves amino acid digestibility in chicks. It was the objective of the current study to determine if phytase would increase the protein efficiency ratio (PER) values (g weight gain per g protein intake) for several feed ingredients fed to chicks. Six experiments were conducted and ingredients evaluated were casein, soybean meal, canola meal, cottonseed meal, peanut meal, wheat middlings, wheat bran, rice bran, defatted rice bran, meat and bone meal, and corn gluten meal. Casein was evaluated to serve as a phytate-free control ingredient. Each feedstuff was analyzed for CP and included in cornstarch:dextrose diets as the only source of protein to provide 10% dietary protein in Experiments 1 to 5 or 18% dietary protein (soybean meal) in Experiment 6. Dietary Ca and nonphytate P levels were varied among experiments and ranged from 0.95 to 1.5% Ca and 0.35 to 0.675% nonphytate P. The test ingredient diets were fed with 0 or 1,200 units of phytase/kg to New Hampshire x Columbian chicks from 8 to 17 or 20 d of age. The PER values varied greatly among ingredients, ranging from 1.4 for corn gluten meal to 4.2 for canola meal. Phytase addition had no significant effect (P > 0.10) on PER values for any of the ingredients evaluated, except for an increase for casein in one experiment. The results indicated that 1,200 U of phytase/kg did not significantly increase protein utilization of several feed ingredients as assessed by a PER chick growth assay.