



The Feed Pea FOCUS

Canada's Feed Pea Newsletter

THE SCOOP ON FEED PEAS

Thanks to some timely rains and lots of sunshine, Canadian pea production is back over the 2 million metric tonne level. Estimated at 2.2 million metric tonnes, the level is back to that achieved in 1999. The quality of most of these peas is excellent, with downgrading occurring only due to bleaching or off colour. Though this may seem to signal that peas are beyond pricing into livestock diets, there are several factors that may increase the opportunity for peas to enter the animal market.

Currently the human consumption market is quiet, with low volumes being traded. Compared to last year, pea prices may appear low, however buyers are still paying what they did in 2002. Drastic increases in ocean freight costs and the strong Canadian dollar means that commodities traded in US funds result in fewer Canadian dollars back to the producer and analysts see little reason for the price of peas to increase in the human market.

In addition, there is a large quantity of peas out there. Since only 15-20% of production enters the food trade in any given year this means that there will be a lot of peas available to buy for feed. And peas are considered a cash crop. With many farmers still feeling the effects of last year's drought, producers may be willing to sell to get some cash in hand.

Of course there is always the cost of alternative ingredients to contend with. Extremely dry conditions in both the US and South America has reduced the soybean crop, which has sent the price of soybean meal skyward with other protein sources following suit. This, coupled with reduced feed supplies in Europe, may result in higher feed prices all round but relative to other feed ingredients the energy-amino acid combination provided by peas will continue to make them an attractive alternative. The sharp buyer will have to take all of these factors into consideration but there is opportunity for using peas.

WHAT ARE PEAS WORTH?

By Jim Gowans

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Peas have become a major protein and energy ingredient for the western Canadian pork industry. For a swine nutritionist, peas are included in diets for many reasons. They are palatable, easy to grind, make great pellets and decrease formula risk by using more than one or two protein sources most commonly, soybean and canola meals) Ultimately, the pork producers' priority is to reduce the feed cost per pig and peas must be cost effective to justify their use in swine diets.

Currently, feed peas are included in swine diets at lower (10-15%) levels because of limited supply and price. However, with the recent USDA report on the surprisingly low soybean yields in the USA, soy meal has moved up sharply. The use of meal must be cut back because there is not enough to sustain current demand. The price response to this report has been dramatic.



	Cost \$/mt			F.O.B. Red Deer		
	2003	July	August	Sept	Oct	Current
Canola		206	182	189	189	194
Soybean Meal		325	301	351	338	360
Lysine		2950	3000	3080	3250	3650
Peas		155	142	150	168	179

Establishing a value for peas in swine diets has always been a challenge in the feed market. How much money do peas save in diets or what value do peas have versus other ingredients? The most valuable nutrient in swine diets is energy. Using the net energy (NE) system, peas and barley are very similar in energy levels – a \$4/t advantage to peas using a tallow price of \$500/t. As could be expected, when comparing protein value, lysine, tryptophan and threonine levels very much favour peas. Therefore, if we use a synthetic amino acid and barley blend, the nutrient and cost comparison can be used as a benchmark for pricing peas. The formula that I use is 985kg barley and 12kg synthetic lysine, .5kg tryptophan and 3kg of threonine. The current market cost of these ingredients (\$.116/kg barley and \$3.60/kg for lysine, \$12/kg for tryptophan and \$4/kg for threonine) would put a comparative value of peas at \$178/t. This is bang on compared to what value my linear program gives me when using NE as the energy constraint. If the cost of soy meal continues to increase, feed pea prices could very soon start to compete with the edible market (\$180-220/t).

PEACAN MEAL AS AN ALTERNATIVE PROTEIN SOURCE TO MARKET HOGS

- excerpted from a report by S. Jaikaran and F.X. Ahern

A blend of peas and canola meal (2:1) called peacan meal can be used to replace soybean meal in grower/finisher pig diets without loss in performance or feed conversion. Market hogs consumed and utilized diets with peacan meal as well as those with SBM. Average daily gain, feed intake and feed:gain were similar as expected since the diets were balanced for equivalent energy and available lysine. Maximum level of inclusion of peacan meal was 380 g kg⁻¹ in phase 1, 290g kg⁻¹ in phase 2 and 25 g kg⁻¹ in phase 3 diets. Results are seen in the following table.



	% supplemental protein from peacan meal			
	0%	33%	66%	100%
ADG (g)	895	855	909	899
ADFI (kg)	2.81	2.61	2.78	2.77
F/G	3.15	3.08	3.07	3.09

LOOKING AT NIR AND NE

The science of livestock nutrition is constantly evolving and improving. Near infrared technology for ingredient evaluation is gaining popularity. It is rapid, accurate and becoming increasingly cost effective. The adoption of net energy evaluation for swine offers opportunities for improved ration balancing and cost savings. These technologies require accurate ingredient information to be effective. With the nutritionist in mind, Western Canadian pulse growers are investing in research to provide accurate information on pulses for these technologies. Watch for it in upcoming issues.

Looking for Pulse Information?

Check out the following websites:

www.pulse.ab.ca, www.saskpulse.com, www.pulsecanada.com.

Chemical composition (%)

90% Dry Matter Basis

Nutrient	Feed Pea	Chickpeas	
		Desi	Kabuli
Crude Protein	22.60	20.5	19.7
Crude Fat	1.1	4.8	7.3
Lysine	1.67	1.37	1.29
Threonine	0.94	0.73	0.66
Methionine	0.27	0.31	0.26
Cystine	0.21	-	-
Tryptophan	0.24	-	-
Crude Fibre	5.50	9.1	3.4
Acid Detergent Fibre	8.19	12.08	4.8
Neutral Det. Fibre	16.65	19.58	8.44
Starch	46.80	-	-

Energy values of feed peas

Poultry	ME kcal/kg	2,650
Swine	DE kcal/kg	3,485
	ME kcal/kg	3,240
	NE kcal/kg	2,450
Cattle	TDN %	78.3
	DE Mcal/kg	3,456
	ME Mcal/kg	3,078
	NEL Mcal/kg	1,809

SOURCE: Feed Pea Industry Guide and Prairie Feed Resource Centre

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