

Adding Value and Marketability to North Dakota Feeds and Co-products

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North Dakota grain processors produce several different co-products and market them as livestock feed. Each co-product has some physical and nutritional shortfalls that could be improved by combining ingredients. By developing formulations with different combinations of co-products and grains with complementary nutritional profiles, compound feeds may be made available in the market place for specific end uses. Proper formulation and use of these new compound pelleted feeds will potentially increase animal performance, handling characteristics, shelf life, safety, palatability, ease of use, and economic returns for livestock producers. Most of the feeds developed in this program will be targeted at ruminants (dairy, beef, sheep, goat, bison etc.) with some potential for swine and poultry markets. The geographic areas for marketing these new feeds include North Dakota, the Northern Plains Region, and possibly other regions of North America, with potential for export to the Pacific Rim.

This study evaluated combinations of feeds using wheat midds, distillers grains and peas. Three major components of this project were a pelleting test to evaluate manufacturing criteria, animal feeding to evaluate performance, and a marketing study to explore potential for new feed products in the marketplace. The pelleting test successfully combined seven different product formulations into commercially acceptable products. The steer feeding trial was also very successful with optimum growth and carcass data. Market projections were very positive but are subjective until product is available and moving through the logistics channels and well liked by end users. The major unknown at this time is the increased cost for manufacturing this product and if end users will accept the mixed co-product feeds. Work continues with other various feed combinations and discussions with existing feed processors.

This project was supported by a grant from the North Dakota Agricultural Products Utilization Commission with in-kind support from Dakota Growers Pasta Company, Carrington, ND.