

Process alters distillers grains' feed value

By DARRELL BOONE

WHEN Central Indiana Ethanol added a new step in corn processing recently, it did more than produce a new coproduct. The coproduct is corn oil ready to be used to make biodiesel. With some adjustments, it could also become the feedstock for producing food-grade corn oil. But adding the step also changed the nutrient content of distillers grains, the byproduct used by livestock producers. Whether that's a plus or minus depends on what type of animals you're feeding.

Duane Kriener handles CIE's distillers grains account for Land O'Lakes, removing corn oil from the coproduct. He says removing the corn oil bumps protein content from roughly 26% to 27.5%, while dropping fat from the 10% to 11% range down to the 6.5% to 7% range.

One early problem with feeding distillers grains is that the coproduct hasn't always been consistent in nutritional value, even when produced at the same plant over time. There are two distillers grains products available to livestock producers from various plants: wet distillers grains and dried distillers grains. CIE makes an effort to produce a quality, consistent, dried distillers grains product, called DDG.

Is more protein and less fat in the feedstuff a good thing? "Depending on what type of livestock you're feeding, that

Key Points

- Extracting corn oil in ethanol production ups protein content of distillers grains.
- Same process lowers energy content of the coproduct.
- Revised rations depends on species and ingredient prices.

can be either good or bad," according to Kriener. "Also, it's really a function of the overall protein and fat markets at the time." That comment relates to economics and whether the change aids producers seeking least-cost rations.

Kriener also indicates that removing some of the fat could pose something of a mixed bag for hog producers. On one hand, it can improve some of the backfat issues associated with feeding higher levels of distillers grains. This phenomenon is sometimes referred to as the "soft bacon" issue. On the other hand, by taking some fat out, a portion of the energy is also removed.

Satisfy animal needs

"Hogs and chickens tend to be very energy-intensive in their diets," notes Kriener. "So it depends upon what the driver of the individual producer is at the moment. Plus, all these markets are interrelated. It really boils down to the mix of pricing."

For the most part, removing the oil from corn has been price-neutral to this



GOLDEN GLOW: Jeff Knutson, plant manager of Central Indiana Ethanol, displays his company's dried distillers grains product made after corn oil was extracted.

point, he adds, although the distillers grains may command a slight price premium in a strong distillers grains market. Kriener adds that the reduced-oil distillers grains have an improved flowability. However, being drier, they tend to be a little dustier. Dust can become an important consideration in confinement hog and poultry operations.

At the same time, these changes to distillers grains resulting from the corn oil extraction step don't appear to have impacted flavor or desirability of the feed ingredient.

"Thus far we've received no feedback from producers about changes in palatability," Kriener concludes.

Boone writes from Wabash.

Improve Your Profits Per Acre with

Field Records

Mapping

Accounting

Variable Rate

FARMWORKS[®]
SOFTWARE

Contact your local dealer
for more info...

Kova, Inc.
Greensburg, IN
812-663-5081
www.FarmWorks.com
E-mail: rogerd@ekova.com

Bloom Precision Ag
Wolcottville, IN
260-351-2023
www.BloomAg.com
E-mail: gbloom@bloomag.com

INDIANA

PRAIRIE FARMER

Reaching the cattlemen important to you!

Your Livestock Sales Representative

GRANT CONOVER
1101 Kennedy St.
Ames, IA 50010
Cell: (515) 419-1004
Fax: (515) 233-1437
gconover@farmprogress.com

Get the most from your advertising dollar.

For information on livestock advertising rates, publication dates, sales reports, upcoming sale dates, ring service, and for all your livestock needs, contact Grant or visit www.IndianaPrairieFarmer.com