



Pulse Agronomy Network~ Partnership in Industry

October 29, 2003- All Pulse Bulletin

1. Feeding Straw From Peas, Lentils and Chickpeas

With record acres of peas, lentils and chickpeas there is an abundance of pulse straw available. Pulse straw differs from typical cereal straw in that it generally contains more protein, has a distinct flavour and tends to be slightly more digestible. The more seeds, the higher the protein and energy of the straw. Pulse straw is considerably higher in calcium and phosphorous than wheat or barley straw. Rumen degradability of pulse straw is quite high, ranging from 45.4% for lentil straw to 63.2% for pea straw.

| Type of Straw | Protein % | TDN % | Calcium % | Phosphorus % | Potassium % |
|----------------|-----------|---------|-----------|--------------|-------------|
| Lentil Straw | 6.4-7.5 | 44-46.0 | 0.65 | 0.20 | - |
| Pea Straw | 6.4-8.6 | 44-46.0 | 0.60 | 0.19 | 2.04 |
| Chickpea Straw | 4.5-6.5 | 44-46.0 | - | - | - |
| Wheat Straw | 3.9 | 42.5 | 0.18 | 0.11 | 1.41 |

In most cases animals like the taste of pulse straw, although it is important to allow the animal a chance to get accustomed to this taste. Blending the pulse straw with other ingredients can do this, then slowly increasing the amount offered to the animals. This will also allow the animal to become accustomed to the texture of the pulse straw that is very different from cereal straw. As with any straw, grinding will improve acceptance and enhance digestibility.

- Barb Stefanyshyn-Cote

| Type of Straw | Crude protein (CP, %) | Total Digestible Nutrients (TDN, %) | Calcium (Ca, %) | Phosphorous (P, %) | Potassium (K, %) |
|---------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Oat | 4.4 | 45 | 0.23 | 0.06 | 2.53 |
| Barley | 4.4 | 40 | 0.30 | 0.07 | 2.37 |
| Wheat | 3.5 | 41 | 0.17 | 0.05 | 1.41 |
| Pea | 6.4 | 46.0 | 0.60 | 0.19 | 2.04 |
| Canola | 3.9 | 41.5 | 0.29 | 0.18 | 0.80 |
| Lentil | 6.4 | 46 | 0.65 | 0.20 | --- |

1. Direct Seeding Advantage, November 18 - 19, 2003, Leduc/Nisku to register contact: [Peter Gamache](#) Phone: (780) 422-7922

2. Alberta Canola Industry Meeting, November 12, 2003, ARC Edmonton.

If you have items of interest that you would like to see addressed on the agenda please let me know. Or if you have information you would like to present let me know. The agenda will be sent out in early to mid-October.

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