

Putting a Value on Canola Meal

Keith Weerts
Little Canaan Ranch
Garfield, WA

Questions for the Audience

- How many people in the room grow oil seeds?
- How many people in the room raise livestock?
- How many of you have at least 10 head of cattle/sheep/goats?
- How many of you have at least 50 head of cattle/sheep/goats?
- How many of you are feeding oil seed meal to your livestock on a regular basis?

Little Canaan Ranch

- We are a small direct to market operation that falls into the 10-50 head category
- We feed meal to all our livestock during our hay feeding season (Oct 15- April 15)
- We like feeding expeller pressed canola meal because:
 1. The combination of protein and oil allows us to feed our typically poor quality hay (and also barley straw) over the winter.
 2. Our winter weight gains are better than in spring/summer allowing us to slaughter in February which our customers like.
 3. The average quality of our butchered beef is higher now than before we started feeding canola meal.

Insanity Strikes

- We purchased a canola press (video)
- We only use 4 tons of canola meal per year. Why spend a bunch of money on a press when I can buy meal from other producers?
 - We believe that expeller pressed meal is critical to our beef marketing plan. (By the way, we only use non-GMO canola.)
 - I automate manufacturing processes for a living and the challenge of designing a fully automated canola press system for farm use was intriguing.
 - I want to help the market grow and one of the best ways to do this is to invite neighbors over to see what you are doing. Watching a Rube Goldberg device run while drinking a beer creates a great opportunity to talk about canola meal and the advantages of feeding it to livestock.
 - Getting a good value for both the oil and the meal is key to keeping the economics reasonable and it is obvious that selling oil as a biodiesel feedstock is not going to cut it at least in the short term. When you jump in with both feet you become quite committed to finding alternative uses for the oil and recognizing the true value of the canola meal.

Putting a Value on Canola Meal

- Is expeller pressed canola meal just a source of protein to be weighed against other sources of protein?
- Or, is it something more?

If it is just a source of protein...

- Alfalfa at 18% protein in Whitman county is \$150/ton (dairy quality is \$200/ton)
- Therefore, canola at 36% protein is worth \$300/ton

However, Expeller Pressed Canola Oil is not just a source of protein but also an excellent source of fat (11% oil).

What is the value of the oil in the meal?

- Extra energy
- Increased milk production
- Increased cold tolerance to new born calves⁽¹⁾
- Improved beef quality
- Animal fat composition changes to be more like canola with a healthy 3:1 omega-6 to omega-3 ratio⁽²⁾

(1) Some Effects of Feeding Supplemental Fat to Beef Cattle – Bellows

(2) Rhod McIntosh beef study

Table 12. AVAILABLE ENERGY VALUES FOR CANOLA EXPELLER MEAL (11% FAT, 12% MOISTURE BASIS)

Animal		Average value
Chickens*	AMEn (kcal/kg)	2340
Pigs**	DE (kcal/kg)	3320
Cattle***	TDN (%)	69.0
	DE (Mcal/kg)	3.44
	ME (Mcal/kg)	2.75
	NEM (Mcal/kg)	1.76
	NEG (Mcal/kg)	1.25
	NEL (Mcal/kg)	1.76

Source:

Canadian International Grains Institute, *Feed Industry Guide*

Wrap Up

- Whether you are a potential meal customer of mine or another meal producer...
- Whether you put in you own meal pressing operation or not...
- Please give canola meal a try, you won't be disappointed with the result.