

Frequently Asked Questions:

Feeding Coproducts to Beef Feedlot Animals

1) What is the best way to store coproducts?

Dry Distillers Grains w/Solubles (DDGS)- Usually contain 12% moisture or less which allows for some flexibility in storage. DDGS can often be handled the same way as other meals are handled.

Wet Distillers Grains (WDG)- At roughly 65% moisture (modified or blended products are 40% to 50% moisture) WDG are best stored on a flat surface and then used in a timely manner. Storage time should be limited to 10 to 14 days in the winter and 3 to 5 days in the summer. There are preservatives commercially available that can extend the shelf life.

2) How much storage waste can I expect?

Waste will greatly depend on storage time, type of storage and weather conditions. Listed below are general guidelines.

DDGS- Waste should be minimal.

WDG- 5% to 10% waste would be average.

3) How much coproduct can I feed?

General rule of thumb for most situations is 15-30% of the diet on a dry matter basis will optimize performance. Higher levels can be fed but performance may be sacrificed.

4) How do I compare prices of different coproducts?

There is variation from plant to plant and product coming out of the same plant can also vary. By doing an analysis of the product and comparing nutrients prices you can judge different prices. Your Hubbard Feeds representative is a good resource when it comes to comparing and choosing different coproducts.

5) How will the animals perform on a diet containing coproducts?

Feeding coproducts should maintain or slightly improve performance. There should not be a decrease in performance when switching to coproducts.

6) Can I expect any savings from feeding coproducts? If so, why?

Protein and energy are generally the nutrients of most economic importance. Coproducts can be a less expensive source of protein and energy resulting in savings.

7) Do I need special equipment to handle coproducts?

DDGS-Can be stored in a bin, commodity box or storage facility.

WDG-Can be bagged, stored in bunker or on a concrete slab.

8) Do I need a special supplement to mix with coproducts? Why?

Usually. Supplements for coproduct feeding are often lower in protein, contain additional calcium and have thiamin added.

9) How will feeding coproducts affect marbling and yield grade?

Feeding coproducts at 15% to 30% of the diet dry matter has not been shown to have any definitive effect on marbling and yield grade. Depending on fat and sulfur levels, feeding coproducts at above 30% of the diet dry matter may reduce marbling and yield grade.