Rapeseed Meal

TYPICAL ANALYSIS (Dry Matter Basis except DM)

- Dry Matter 89%
- Crude Protein 39%
- Oil 3%
- NDF 30%
- Starch 6%
- Sugar 10%
- ME 12 MJ/kg DM

PRODUCT DETAIL

- High level of digestible Protein
- Decent energy level
- Good complement to soya in adult ruminant diets
- Consistent analysis
- Low palatability
- Wide range of use for many classes of stock
- Good availability all year

PRODUCT BACKGROUND

A by-product of the crushing, expelling and extracting of oil from the Brassica, Oilseed Rape, the residual material is usually produced as a friable meal.

HANDLING AND STORAGE

As with all other dried feeds, Oilseed Rape Meal should be stored in cool, dry conditions. Because of the levels of oil in Rape Meal and also because of its tendency to draw in moisture, it should not be stored on farm for more than two months.

FEEDING

Since the advent of varieties of Oilseed Rape with low levels of the anti-nutritive factors, erucic acid and glucosinolates, Oilseed Rape Meal has become a popular feed to supply ruminant animals, and to a lesser extent, pigs, with a cost effective source of protein. The high levels of ruminally degraded protein make it a particularly useful addition to diets containing low protein grass, maize and wholecrop silages as well as those diets high in straw.

Care should still be taken when feeding Oilseed Rape Meal which is high in erucic acid or glucosinolates.

**Dairy Cows** – Fairly flexible in its use. Levels of 2 to 4 kg per head per day have been used successfully for high yielding cows.

**Beef** – Can be used as the only protein inclusion in beef diets with levels of up to 25 – 30 % of the concentrate fraction of the ration.

**Suckler Cows** – Trials have shown that Oilseed Rape Meal can be used as the sole concentrate for dry suckler cows fed on ad lib cereal straw. Levels of 2 – 3 kg per head per day depending on cow condition.

**Sheep** – Meal content and poor palatability generally restricts usage in ewe diets to a maximum of 10 %.

**Pigs** – Can be included in sow and finishing diets to a maximum of 5 %.

Note:

*Oilseed Rape Meal should be only be used in diets where recommended by a suitably qualified person. Furthermore, as feeding is only one part of overall animal influence, no performance guarantees can be made.*