

DDGS and Crystalline Amino Acids are Pricing Out of Swine Diets

Crystalline Amino Acids and Distillers Dried Grains with Solubles (DDGS) are being removed from many swine feeding programs due to changes in ingredient prices. Recent moves in prices of amino acids and DDGS, in concert with increased costs of corn and soybean meal, have removed the cost competitiveness of high crystalline amino acid formulations with added DDGS.

DDGS prices have risen \$40 to \$65 per ton in recent weeks in some localized markets, and product sourcing has become difficult. Presumably, these changes are due to large amounts of DDGS being transported out of the Midwest to other domestic and foreign markets that are looking for alternatives to increasingly expensive grains and protein sources.

There have been some amino acid price increases of late, but the high price of corn has also factored into a competitive disadvantage for high amino acid formulations. Diets containing high levels of crystalline Lysine, Methionine and Threonine also contain more corn to fill in the space otherwise occupied by protein ingredients such as SBM. The cost of filling in this space increases when corn prices rise.

During times of ingredient price volatility it is important that you frequently examine the best alternatives for cost-effectively formulating swine diets in order to maximize the profitability of your pork production enterprise. Your Vita Plus swine representative will be happy to assist you in examining your specific pricing situation using the Nutrition Program Alternatives calculator.



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