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The main livestock feeds produced in the UK are for **monogastrics**, pigs and poultry, and for **ruminants**.

The value of peas and beans to these markets differs in that :
for monogastrics digestible amino acid content is a primary determinant of value,
in ruminants it is crude protein,
in dairy rumen degradable protein.

Further the anti-nutritive factors in peas and beans
(particularly trypsin inhibitor and to a lesser extent vicine and convicine)
are important to monogastrics, particularly at higher inclusion rates,
but are not relevant for ruminants.

Virtually all feeds used in the UK are “best cost formulated”.

Thus at any one time the value of a commodity, such as peas, depends upon:

- the price and analysis of all other commodities,
- the age, productive purpose and class of stock being fed.

Most nutritionists have few concerns about peas in monogastric feeds at levels of inclusion of up to say 10% (which is rarely reached anyway because of availability and economics). in contrast to say France and Canada, in the UK **trypsin inhibitor level does not feature in approved variety selection** and thus is more variable.

Consistently low TIA peas, and continuous supply, could increase maximum inclusion rate towards 20% in many monogastric feeds

There is more caution with field beans because of vicine, convicine, trypsin inhibitor and tannin and inclusion rates are normally limited to 5% for older monogastric animals.

Wheat distiller's grains plus solubles (DDGS).

biofuel production -> 1mt of DDGS.

the “take home message” is
should this volume of DDGS be available on the feed market
it will seriously erode the potential value of pulses.

Ruminants

Beans are used up to about a 15-20% maximum inclusion rate there is a risk of bloat at higher levels.

Some suggest peas as high as 30% in dairy but in reality 20% is more typical

Pea and bean usage and availability

There has been a **scarcity of peas and beans** for feeding this year and last year was also poor. Indeed the rape/pulse plants mentioned above have been **running at about 50% capacity**. There have been a few beans used in cattle. Peas and beans are very **popular in organic feeds** and this may have diverted some supply.

The odd parcel of peas and beans is unattractive to the feed mills and major home-mixers who may be limited in raw material bins and doesn't want to "chop and change" for fear of disrupting gut microbiology.

Pea and bean usage and availability

Homegrown pulses would be a useful hedge against the vagaries of the soya market.

Peas today have a value of £180.80/t for finishing pigs.
If we go back a couple of years with cereals at £65/t and soya at £135 they were worth only £87/t.

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Technical Information
