# SOYBEAN MEAL

## PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

**Soybeans are a high protein legume and are the most commonly used protein supplement in dairy diets throughout the world. Soybean meal is palatable, nutrient dense, high in digestibility, and a relatively consistent source of protein. It has an excellent amino acid profile and is a concentrated source of protein and energy. Soybean meal accounts for nearly 65% of the world's protein feed demand.**

## TYPICAL ANALYSIS

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| • Dry Matter | 90% |
| • Energy (ME) | 12MJ/KgDM |
| • Crude Protein | 46-48% |
| • NDF | 12.3% |
| • Crude Fibre | 4% |
| • ADF | 45% |

*note: typical analysis only, not specification.*

## USE AND APPLICATION

Protein supplements like soybean meal can be fed to balance out low protein pasture and/or supplements. Cows in mid-lactation require about 16% dietary crude protein. In summer pasture protein levels can drop under 16%. In these situations, deficiencies can become an issue and soybean meal can be used to stimulate production levels.

Soybean meal contains around 50% protein of which 35% is rumen undegradable ("by-pass") and 65% is rumen degradable.

There is no maximum for the use of soybean meal in dairy rations, and it can be fed to meet protein requirements. Normal feeding rates will be around 0.5-2kg per head per day. Soybean meal can be fed mixed with silage in the paddock or on the feed pad. It can also be fed via the grain feeding system in the dairy shed.

## STORAGE AND HANDLING

Like all feedstuffs, soybean meal should be stored dry, in bulk bins or placed on cement slabs (away from vermin and protected from the weather).



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