



**DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE  
RESEARCH & EXTENSION**

*University of Arkansas System*

**Comparative Feed Value Calculator  
User's Guide**

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**Basis Ingredients**

Enter the costs of the two basis ingredients – corn and soybean meal 48%.

| <b>Input</b>     | <b>Cell</b> | <b>Cell can be modified?</b> | <b>Description</b>                            |
|------------------|-------------|------------------------------|---|
| Corn             | G5          | Yes                          | Enter the cost of corn per bushel             |
| Soybean Meal 48% | G6          | Yes                          | Enter the cost of soybean meal 48% per bushel |

**Blue Values (Ingredient and As-Fed Nutrient Values)**

- Values in **blue** can be modified (note following table for specific cell ranges and instructions).
- The initial values present in each cell represent average values for these feedstuffs.
- Making changes to these values is not recommended, with the exception of hays and silages, unless a feed analysis report is available for that particular feedstuff.

| <b>Input</b>                       | <b>Cell(s)</b> | <b>Cell(s) can be modified?</b> | <b>Description</b>   |
|------------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Dry Matter % (DM)                  | D10 to D29     | Yes                             | Do not change this value unless using analysis results. Enter the dry matter percent from feed analysis results.     |
| Crude Protein % (CP)               | E10 to E29     | Yes                             | Do not change this value unless using analysis results. Enter the crude protein percent from a feed analysis report. |
| Total Digestible Nutrients % (TDN) | F10 to F29     | Yes                             | Do not change this value unless using analysis results. Enter the TDN percent from a feed analysis report.           |
| Feedstuff                          | B26 to B29     | Yes                             | Enter a feedstuff that is not listed   |

**Red Values (As-Fed Price per Ton)**

The values in **red** (cells G10 to G29) should represent the price of the feedstuff when it is delivered to the farm.

### **Protein and Energy versus Energy Only**

The costs per feedstuff for protein and energy (cells H10 to K29) can be compared to the costs of energy alone (cells L10 to O29).

When selecting feeds, you should consider their purpose. If only an energy source is needed, use only the energy value of feeds (cells L10 to O29). Feeds that are higher in protein content will typically cost more.

### **WARNING**

This program should be used as a tool for considering feedstuffs, but do not make a final decision until the effects on the total diet is considered. For example, a feedstuff that is lower in TDN may appear to be a better buy, but once the final diet is considered, the reduction in animal performance and increase in the amount of feed per pound of production may more than offset the expected savings in feed cost.

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