

AMINOCOW[®] Know How

Helpful hints for the effective use of AminoCow[®]

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Creating a feed for use in multiple rations

Q: A feed ingredient I use regularly is not in the AminoCow[®] database. How do I create and save this feed so I can use it in multiple rations?

The easiest way to approach this is to select a similar ingredient that is in the AminoCow database and add it to a ration as the starting point. Let us use as an example a Canola meal that has been treated to enhance rumen undegradable protein. This product called 'Canola XP' contains 36% crude protein (as % of DM), 60% of this CP is RUP and fat is 4% (as % of DM). We could choose 'Canola meal solvent' as the similar ingredient. The name and nutrient values can then be readily changed by typing over the appropriate values. If more extensive nutrient changes are needed, clicking <Feeds> - <Modify Feed Analysis> brings up the screen shown below which you may find more convenient.

Common Nutrients		Amino Acids		Fat, Minerals and Vitamins			
% DM	84	Met (% DM)	0.807	Fat (% DM)	2.2	Co (ppm)	0.2
CP (% DM)	40.5	Lys (% DM)	2.155	Veg (% Fat)	100	Cu (ppm)	9
RUP (% CP)	30	Leu (% DM)	2.768	An (% Fat)	0	Fe (ppm)	190
RDP (% CP)	70	Ile (% DM)	1.551	Byp (% Fat)	0	I (ppm)	0
SIP (% CP)	20	Val (% DM)	2.074	dgFA	99	Mn (ppm)	60
NDCP (% DM)	6.3	Thr (% DM)	1.725	Ash (% DM)	7.8	Zn (ppm)	70
ADCP (% DM)	2.4	Arg (% DM)	2.385	Ca (% DM)	0.73	Se (ppm)	1.1
NEI (Mcal/lb)	0.78	His (% DM)	1.045	P (% DM)	1.13	Vit A (ku/lb)	0.0
NEg (Mcal/lb)	0.81	Trp (% DM)	0.535	Mg (% DM)	0.58	Vit D (ku/lb)	0.0
TDN (% DM)	67	Phe (% DM)	1.575	K (% DM)	1.4	Vit E (IU/lb)	0
Processing Factor	1	dgAA	80	Na (% DM)	0.1	Choline (mg/lb)	0
Price	209.09	dgACP	0	Cl (% DM)	0.11	Niacin (mg/lb)	0
				S (% DM)	1.1		



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Once you have made the necessary changes and returned to the main worksheet, highlight a cell in the row for this ingredient then click <Feeds> - <CopyFeedtoUserFeeds>. This will bring up a box wherein you will be asked to confirm the name of the ingredient to be saved to the 'UserFeeds' database. Once you click <OK>, you will receive confirmation that the feed has been copied. The new feed name and its nutrient specifications now reside in the 'UserFeeds' database and can be recalled from there into any ration.

Cautions

1. If the feed ingredient contains protein/amino acids, you are advised not to select a vitamin/mineral feed as the similar ingredient. The digestibility coefficient for amino acids (found in the 'Amino Acid' section under 'dgAA') is typically zero for the vitamin/mineral feeds. Also, the 'Processing Factor' (found in the 'Energy' section) will need to be changed from '0' to '1', if it is a grain, and to '4', if it is an animal protein source such as blood meal. Consequently, if you neglect to change these values, the amino acid contribution from this ingredient will be zero since these coefficients are part of the calculation of metabolizable amino acid supply.
2. When your feed is composed of multiple ingredients such as a commercial RUP supplement, it is not possible to create a 'UserFeed' by just overwriting an existing ingredient using the average nutrient contents. You are encouraged to include all single ingredients of your supplement in a ration, then combine those ingredients in a mix and save the feed as a custom mix. This will assure accurate calculation of amino acid delivery on an ingredient by ingredient basis rather than erroneous values determined as averages. Proper calculation requires the RUP, amino acid composition and percentage (on a dry matter basis) of each ingredient in the supplement or mix.
3. Since AminoCow has no way of knowing the newly created UserFeed 'Canola XP' is actually a type of Canola meal, the function that automatically adjusts amino acid values with changes in crude protein level does not work with UserFeeds.

Quick Summary

- Select a similar ingredient from the database and add to a ration.
- Make required changes to nutrient values and name.
- Copy to user feeds database.
- If feed is a commercial mix, create the feed as a mix and save it to the 'Custom Mix' library.



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