
WHAT ARE EXTRUDED FEEDS

Sometimes when you look on feed bags you will notice that it says that a feed or perhaps an ingredient is extruded. What exactly does that mean? Extrusion and pelleting are very similar. Both start out with a ground feed or feed ingredients that are then compacted and passed through die openings. On leaving the barrel pressure drops suddenly which causes steam to be released and the feed expands violently. When pelleting a feed the pressure in the system is low resulting in a compacted feed as opposed to an expanded feed. Extruded feeds are about a half as dense as pelleted feeds and loose feeds made of the same ingredients. Heat is often applied to the system either as a result of friction or due to injected steam. Due to the process of expansion, extruded feeds have greater surface area on which digestive enzymes and microbes can work. In addition the heat in the system may alter the structure of the feed components making them more available to the digestive process. Both these processes help to increase the digestibility of the feed. ☺

Copyright © 2007 Clair Thunes