

Are the Low Starch Content of DDGS and Corn Silage Factors in Maximizing Distillers Grains in Dairy Rations?

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Some believe that the non-fiber carbohydrate (NFC) content of diets should be 35-41% of diet DM for high producing cows. However, the same or higher production can be achieved when feeding distillers grains (DDGS) even though such diets contain less than 20% sugars plus starch and the fermentable NDF may be greater than 15% of DM. Starch in corn silage can add some starch to low grain, DDGS-containing diets; however, the slightly higher milk production sometimes observed when DDGS is fed with high alfalfa instead of high corn silage diets is an amino acid effect, not a starch effect.