

# Nutrient availability of different batches of wheat distiller's dried grains with solubles for turkeys

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1 **Nutrient availability of different batches of wheat distiller's dried grains with solubles for**  
2 **turkeys**

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11

12 **ABSTRACT**

13 Effects of five different batches of wheat distiller's dried grains with solubles (DDGS)  
14 produced by a single production plant were used to investigate bioavailability of energy and  
15 nutrients for turkeys. The laboratory analysis of the DDGS showed variation among the  
16 different batches. Largest coefficients of variation were observed for soluble non-starch  
17 polysaccharides, oil and ash (standard deviations 12.28, 5.64 and 4.66, respectively). Birds  
18 were fed one of six mash diets. A basal diet was prepared that had major ingredients of 535  
19 g/kg wheat and 300 g/kg soybean meal (SBM), and contained 247 g/kg CP and 12.57 MJ/kg  
20 metabolisable energy. Another five diets containing 200 g/kg of each of five experimental  
21 DDGS samples in replacement for basal diet were also mixed. Each diet was fed to eight pens  
22 with two female Premium turkeys following randomisation. The N-corrected apparent  
23 metabolisable energy (AMEn) and the nutrient retention coefficients of the pure DDGS  
24 samples were obtained using the substitution method. The AMEn of the DDGS from batch A  
25 was higher ( $p = 0.048$ ) compared to those from batches B and C, but did not differ ( $p > 0.05$ )

26 from DDGS samples D and E. There were no differences ( $p > 0.05$ ) in DMR, NR and FD  
27 between the DDGS samples from different batches used in this study. The AMEn of the DDGS  
28 samples correlated positively ( $p < 0.05$ ) to the starch ( $r = 0.895$ ), the red index of lighting (a)  
29 ( $r = 0.916$ ) and the NSPn contents ( $r = 0.940$ ), respectively. In general, findings from this study  
30 indicate bioavailability of energy and most nutrients to be in the range of published data with  
31 turkeys, and to vary between batches.

## 32 **KEYWORDS**

33 Wheat distillers dried grains with solubles (DDGS); turkeys; ME; digestibility

34

### 35 **1. Introduction**

36 The increased use of wheat for bioethanol production resulted in more available wheat  
37 distiller's dried grains with solubles (DDGS) for animal feed (Westreicher-Kristen et al. 2012).

38 Traditionally utilised as feed ingredient for ruminants, wheat DDGS is also used in poultry  
39 diets formulations (Cozannet et al. 2010). As the price of ingredients for animal feed worldwide  
40 increases, inclusion of locally produced wheat DDGS could be more routinely used in poultry  
41 diets if there was more robust information on its nutrient availability and its variation.

42 Compared with corn-DDGS, there is insufficient information about the nutritive value of  
43 wheat-DDGS for poultry (Opoku et al. 2015a).

44 *There are only relatively few studies of feeding wheat DDGS to turkeys (Opoku et al. 2015b),*  
45 *and there is evidence that any differences that have been detected in broiler chicken studies are*  
46 *not directly applicable to turkeys: Kluth and Rodehutsord (2006) found different energy*  
47 *digestibilities of diets containing different levels of two protein concentrates when fed to broiler*  
48 *chickens and turkeys. Adedokun et al. (2008) compared amino acid digestibility in two samples*  
49 *of corn DDGS at two ages in both broiler chickens and turkeys. There were differences in total*  
50 *amino acid digestibility due to age between the two DDGS samples but there was a large*

51 difference in response between the broilers and turkeys. It is therefore important to directly  
52 examine the feeding value of wheat DDGS in turkeys rather than rely on data obtained with  
53 chickens.

54 The nutrient availability has been shown to vary substantially between DDGS samples  
55 produced by different bioethanol plants (Bandegan et al. 2009; Cozannet et al. 2010). Batch  
56 variability in metabolizable energy content and nutrient digestibility for broilers and layers  
57 within wheat DDGS samples produced by a single production plant has been reported by  
58 Whiting et al. (2015, 2017), although information on turkeys is lacking.

59 The main objective of the current study was to determine the N-corrected apparent  
60 metabolisable energy (AMEn) of five batches of wheat-DDGS produced at the same plant  
61 when fed to turkeys. The total tract dry matter retention (DMR), nitrogen retention (NR) and  
62 fat, measured as ether extract, digestibility (FD) coefficients were also determined. The  
63 relationship between AMEn and chemical and physical measurements of DDGS was also  
64 studied.

## 65 **2. Materials and methods**

### 66 **2.1. Experimental Samples**

67 This report is focused on the nutritional value for turkeys of five wheat DDGS samples. All  
68 wheat DDGS samples were obtained from ENSUS Biorefinery, Wilton, UK. The sampling  
69 interval was between 14 and 21 days during a period of 90 days from January to April 2013,  
70 yielding 5 samples in total. All samples were stored in bags at ambient air temperatures in a  
71 dry store. The stored DDGS samples did not experience any freezing temperatures during this  
72 storage. A representative sample was taken from each of the five batches and the major  
73 chemical components were measured. Although the manufacturer followed the same  
74 procedures during the bioethanol, i.e. DDGS, production, different batches of wheat were used.

### 75 **2.2. Husbandry and sample collection**

76 All procedures were approved by The Animal Experimental Committee of Harper Adams  
77 University.

78 Nutrient availability were examined in a turkey poult's experiment from 67 to 75 d age. Each  
79 of the five DDGS samples were incorporated into a nutritionally complete diet in meal form at  
80 200 g/kg (800 g of the basal feed +200 g of each DDGS sample) (Table 1). The nutrient  
81 specification of the diets met the breeder's recommendation (Aviagen Ltd.). A sixth dietary  
82 treatment was also fed that was the basal feed only. Female Premium turkeys were obtained  
83 from a commercial hatchery (Faccenda Foods Ltd, Dalton, UK) at day old and were placed in  
84 a single floor pen and fed on a proprietary wheat-soybean turkey feed until 67 d of age. **During**  
85 **the first two phases, from 0 to 28 and from 28 to 56 d age, diets contained 12.21 and 12.39**  
86 **MJ/kg metabolisable energy, 285 and 270 g/kg crude protein, 18 and 16 g/kg available lysine,**  
87 **13 and 12 g/kg methionine + cysteine, 15 and 13 g/kg Ca, 8 and 7 g/kg available P, respectively.**  
88 **From 56 days onwards, birds were fed the basal diet.** Two birds were randomly allocated to  
89 one of 48 cages with 0.36 m<sup>2</sup> floor area and given the experimental diets. Each cage was  
90 equipped with a trough feeder and nipple drinker. Access to the feed and the water was *ad*  
91 *libitum*. There were 8 replicates for each diet. The experimental house was equipped with a  
92 negative pressure ventilation system to meet commercial recommendations. A standard  
93 temperature and lighting programs for turkeys were used (Aviagen, Turkeys ltd).

94 At 71 d of age, after 5 days given to adjust to the diets, the total droppings were collected for  
95 four days until the end of the study at 75 d age. Feed intake for the same period was recorded  
96 for the determination of dietary AMEn and total tract nutrient retention coefficients.

### 97 **2.3. Chemical Analysis**

98 Dry droppings samples were weighed and milled to pass through a 0.75-mm mesh. Gross  
99 energy concentrations of the control feed, DDGS and droppings were measured using an  
100 adiabatic bomb calorimeter (Model: 1261 Isoperibol Bomb Calorimeter, 100 Parr Instrument

101 Company, Moline, IL, USA). Nitrogen was determined using a Leco nitrogen analyser (Leco  
102 FP-528, Leco Corporation, St Joseph, MI, USA) according to AOAC method 968.06 (AOAC,  
103 2000). Ether extract was determined according to AOAC methods 920.39 and 942.05,  
104 respectively (AOAC, 2000). The colour score of the stored DDGS samples was carried out  
105 using a Chroma Meter CR-400 from Konica Minolta (Sunderland, UK) to determine luminance  
106 and chromaticity scores using CIELAB scoring.

107 Non-starch polysaccharides (NSP) and total starch (TS) contents in the DDGS samples were  
108 determined following the methods of Englyst (1994) and Englyst (2000), respectively. The GE,  
109 DM, nitrogen and ether extract of each dried droppings sample and the experimental diets were  
110 determined as described for the feed samples. The AMEn of the diets was calculated following  
111 the method of Hill and Anderson (1958). The coefficients of total tract nutrient retention were  
112 determined as the difference between intake and voiding of the nutrient, divided by their  
113 respective intake.

114

#### 115 **2.4. Statistical procedure**

116 The results of pure DDGS samples were statistically compared using a randomised block  
117 analysis of variance. Duncan's multiple range test was used to determine significant differences  
118 between diets. The observational unit was the cage with two birds. Statistical analyses were  
119 performed using the GenStat statistical software package (GenStat 17 release 3.22 for  
120 Windows; IACR, Rothamstead, Hertfordshire, UK). The AMEn and the nutrient retention  
121 coefficients of all diets, including the basal diet and diets including DDGS samples were  
122 determined. Then the AMEn and the nutrient retention coefficients of the pure DDGS samples  
123 were obtained by the substitution method (Finney 1978) using the data from the basal only.

124 Correlation coefficients were obtained for all chemical and physical characteristics of the wheat  
125 DDGS samples. In all instances, differences were reported as significant at  $p \leq 0.05$ .

126

### 127 **3. Results**

128 The chemical composition and the colour measurements of the wheat-DDGS used in the  
129 current study are presented in Table 2. The amount of oil was more variable than the protein  
130 content and the GE concentration, and ranged from 41.9 to 55.0 g/kg DM. The ash content was  
131 also variable, from 53.1 to 64.9 g/kg DM, and conversely related to the oil content of the DDGS  
132 samples. The DM content was uniform and ranged from 892 to 900 g/kg DM. The variation in  
133 the colour scores was relatively uniform although all readings were lower than 50. Variation in  
134 all proximate analysis and the colour scores of the present study were in agreement with  
135 Pedersen et al. (2014).

136 Xylose, glucose and arabinose were the main NSP constituent sugars in the wheat DDGS  
137 samples. The mean starch content of the DDGS batches was 33.0 g/kg DM, as batch C had the  
138 lowest starch content of 28.0 g/kg DM, and batch A had the highest starch content of 41.5 g/kg  
139 DM, respectively.

140 The AMEn of the DDGS from batch A was higher ( $p = 0.048$ ) compared to those from batches  
141 B and C, but did not differ ( $p > 0.05$ ) from the rest of DDGS samples. There were no differences  
142 ( $p > 0.05$ ) in DMR, NR and FD between the DDGS samples from different batches used in this  
143 study.

144 The AMEn of the DDGS samples was positively correlated ( $p < 0.05$ ) to starch ( $r = 0.895$ ), the  
145 red light spectrum (a) ( $r = 0.916$ ) and the NSPn ( $r = 0.940$ ), respectively (data not presented in  
146 tables).

147

148        **4. Discussion**

149        The analysed dietary protein and ether extract contents differed from the calculated values for  
150        the basal diet, which could probably be due to the differences between the composition of the  
151        actual ingredients that were used in the present study and the values given by the data set in the  
152        spreadsheets used for dietary calculation.

153        The objective of the current experiment was to determine the AMEn contents and nutrient  
154        retention coefficients of five different wheat-DDGS batches for turkeys. A single production  
155        plant produced the DDGS batches over a relatively short period. The variation in chemical  
156        composition between batches (for example ranges of 8.5 g/kg CP, 13.1 g/kg in oil, 20.4 g/kg  
157        in total NSP, and 13.5 g/kg in starch) were either due to small differences in processing  
158        conditions or differences in wheat grain used in the production process. The results confirm  
159        the importance of research on batch variability of wheat DDGS to better understand the source  
160        of variation that influence its feeding quality for turkeys.

161        The approximate nutrient, polysaccharide and GE contents of the experimental wheat DDGS  
162        samples were in a range similar to published reports (Bolarinwa and Adeola 2012; Adebisi and  
163        Olukosi 2015). As expected (Świątkiewicz and Koreleski 2008), the studied wheat DDGS  
164        contained between two and three times more NSP, ether extract, protein and ash and about 20  
165        times less starch compared to average wheat starch contents, in line with fermentation process  
166        during DDGS production.

167        The AMEn of the studied wheat-DDGS samples was relatively high, 13.42 MJ kg/DM,  
168        compared to the values reported by Cozannet et al. (2010), 9.60 MJ kg/DM, but slightly lower  
169        than those reported by Adebisi and Olukosi (2015), 14.04 MJ kg/DM, respectively. When  
170        applying the substitution method on the data reported by Opoku et al. (2015c) a value of 14.66  
171        MJ kg/DM was obtained for the wheat DDGS sample used. Much higher AMEn values would  
172        be obtained if the substitution method is applied to another report by Opoku et al. (2015b).



173 However, it can be speculated that the difference in AMEn values in wheat-DDGS between  
174 the current study and other reports is due to differences in experimental conditions, techniques  
175 used, birds age, dietary composition, and also chemical composition of DDGS and bioethanol  
176 plant where the samples were produced. For example, Adebisi and Olukosi (2015) used 20 d  
177 old BUT10 male turkeys, Cozannet et al. (2010) used 70 d old male BUT9 turkeys, Opoku et  
178 al. (2015c) used 21 d old Hybrid Converter female turkeys, and 70 d old female BUT Premium  
179 turkeys were used in the present report. In addition, Adebisi and Olukosi (2015) had DDGS  
180 inclusion at 0, 300 and 600 g/kg diet, and used titanium dioxide as indigestible marker to enable  
181 determination of AMEn content by the index method. Opoku et al. (2015c) included DDGS at  
182 0, 100, 200 and 300 g/kg diet, and used acid insoluble ash as indigestible marker. Cozannet et  
183 al. (2010) included DDGS at 0 and 250 g/kg and used total collection technique for AMEn  
184 determination. In the present report, DDGS was included at 0 and 200 g/kg and total collection  
185 technique was used. Dietary composition between studies also differ. In addition, storage of  
186 wheat DDGS may be a reason for differences in metabolisable energy (Whiting et al. 2016).

187 The differences in aforementioned metabolisable energy values of wheat- DDGS suggest that  
188 more uniform methodology for determining energy value of wheat-DDGS for turkeys is  
189 needed. Although variation in chemical and physical characteristics of wheat-DDGS samples  
190 is one of the reasons for differences in available energy, employed methodology, dietary  
191 composition, age, and hybrids used should be given also consideration.

192 It is now well documented that bioethanol plants have significant impact on nutritive value of  
193 wheat and maize DDGS (Bandegan et al. 2009; Cozannet et al. 2010; Nuez Ortin and Yu 2009).

194 Batch variation in composition of maize DDGS produced by a single production plant has been  
195 observed (Belyea et al. 2004; **Bottger and Sudekum 2017**). Batch-to-batch variations in AMEn  
196 in wheat DDGS from the same bioethanol processing plant have been also reported in broiler  
197 and layer studies (Whiting et al. 2016, 2017). The chemical composition of wheat, e.g., NSP

198 and resistant starch varies, thus the polysaccharide content of DDGS produced will also be  
199 variable. The main factors affecting the variability of wheat include, crop nutrition, location,  
200 seasonal factors, and genetics (Pirgozliev et al. 2003). Since wheat is the raw material for  
201 DDGS production, the observed variability is not a surprise.

202 Dietary metabolisable energy is widely used to describe the available energy concentration in  
203 poultry feedstuffs. The availability of dietary energy depends on the availability of starch,  
204 protein and fat, all of which may be impaired by anti-nutritive factors. However, the starch  
205 content in the wheat-DDGS samples in this study was reduced approximately 20 times  
206 compared to average wheat starch content; thus, the overall metabolisable energy contribution  
207 of starch is not significant. In addition, because of processing, some of the residual starch will  
208 be in the form of resistant starch and will therefore, essentially act as a NSP (Sharma et al.,  
209 2010).

210 In agreement with Cozannet et al. (2010), the colour score, in particular the red index was  
211 **highly correlated to** the AMEn in the DDGS samples. All samples were dark ( $L < 50$ ) in  
212 connection with probable overheating during the DDGS drying process and a possible Maillard  
213 reaction. The Maillard reaction is regarded as being primarily responsible for causing chemical  
214 heat damage to protein within DDGS (Cromwell et al. 1993; Waldroup et al. 2007). A number  
215 of publications have associated damaged protein with darker samples of DDGS and conversely  
216 better quality protein in lighter samples (Cromwell et al. 1993; Fastinger and Mahan 2006).  
217 Sharma et al. (2010) reported that differences in temperature during the liquefaction stage may  
218 be a reason for differences in resistant starch content, thus suggesting that a variation in the  
219 temperature during the process in the same plant may exist. In addition, Classen et al. (2014)  
220 found that all stages of heat application during wheat DDGS production negatively affected  
221 the content and digestibility of amino acids. Lysine is particularly susceptible to heat damage  
222 initiated during this process (Smith et al. 2006). Diets containing wheat DDGS may need more

223 lysine supplementation to meet the requirements of the birds (Cozannet et al. 2010; Bolarinwa  
224 and Adeola 2012).

225 DeGroot (1974) reported that the efficiency of energy utilization from dietary protein,  
226 carbohydrates, and fats is 0.6, 0.7, and 0.9, respectively. In addition, fats contains higher  
227 amount of energy compared to carbohydrates and protein, thus variation in ether extract content  
228 can explain variation in available energy content of DDGS.

229

## 230 **5. Conclusions**

231 The results showed that the feeding value of different wheat DDGS batches produced by a  
232 single production plant might vary when fed to turkeys. The relatively low colour scores of the  
233 samples indicates the need to consider the level and control of heat application in wheat ethanol  
234 production. When formulating poultry diets containing DDGS, information on energy and  
235 nutrient contents and availability is important to ensure diets are balanced. In general, findings  
236 from this study indicate bioavailability of energy and most nutrients to in the range of published  
237 data with turkeys, and to vary between batches.

238

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241

## 242 **Disclosure statement**

243 No potential conflict of interest was reported by the authors.

244

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345

Table 1. Experimental basal diet\*

<u>Ingredients [%]</u>	
Wheat	53.5
Prairie meal	2.5
Wheatfeed	5.0
Soybean meal	30.0
L-Lysine HCl	0.4
DL-methionine	0.3
L-threonine	0.1
Soya oil	4.0
Limestone	1.0
Dicalcium phosphate	2.5
Salt	0.3
Turkey premix <sup>†</sup>	0.4
Calculated provisions	
AME [MJ/kg]	12.6
CP [g/kg]	235
Ether extract [g/kg]	56
Av Lysine [g/kg]	13.8
Meth + Cysteine [g/kg]	9.9
Ca [g/kg]	12.1
Av P [g/kg]	6.1
Analysed values	
DM [g/kg]	879
GE [MJ/kg]	17.3
CP [g/kg]	233
Ether extract [g/kg]	54

346

347 \*DDGS containing diets were fed as a part of complete diet comprised 200 g/kg of each  
348 experimental wheat DDGS sample and 800 g/kg of the basal.

349 <sup>†</sup>Provided per kg feed: retinol, 2160 µg; cholecalciferol, 75 µg; α-tocopherol, 25 mg;  
350 menadione, 1.5 mg; riboflavin, 5 mg; pantothenic acid, 8 mg; cyanocobalamin, 0.01 mg;  
351 pyridoxine, 1.5 mg; thiamine, 1.5 mg; folic acid, 0.5 mg; niacin, 30 mg; biotin, 0.06 mg; iodine,  
352 0.8 mg; copper, 10 mg; iron, 80 mg; selenium, 0.3 mg; manganese, 80 mg; and zinc, 80 mg.

353

354



355

356 **Table 2.** Proximate composition and colour measurements of the experimental wheat DDGS  
357 samples [g/kg DM\*]

DDGS	DM [g/kg]	Ash [g/kg]	Ether extract [g/kg]	Crude protein [g/kg]	Gross energy [MJ/kg]	Colour measurements <sup>†</sup>		
						L	a	b
A	896	54.9	49.8	318.5	21.78	38.6	10.2	19.7
B	898	64.9	42.8	326.2	20.29	37.7	9.3	18.0
C	900	58.2	41.9	327.0	21.42	36.4	9.3	17.1
D	892	55.1	51.3	322.4	21.77	35.6	9.8	17.7
E	895	53.1	55	325.3	21.68	36.8	9.5	18.1
SD <sup>‡</sup>	3.03	4.66	5.64	3.87	0.63	1.16	0.38	0.97

358 \*DM: dry matter; <sup>†</sup>Colour measurements as follows: L [luminance]; a [red index]; b [yellow

359 index]; <sup>‡</sup>SD: standard deviation.

360

361 **Table 3.** Polysaccharide composition of the experimental wheat DDGS samples [g/kg dry matter]  
 362

Batch	Fraction	Arabinose	Xylose	Mannose	Galactose	Glucose	Galacturonic acid	NSP <sup>†</sup>	Starch
A	NSPs <sup>‡</sup>	11.2	15.6	5.6	2.2	6.7	4.5	45.8	
	NSPn <sup>#</sup>	43.5	67.0	6.7	8.9	63.6	0.0	189.7	
	NSPt <sup>§</sup>	54.7	82.6	12.3	11.2	70.3	4.5	235.5	41.5
B	NSPs	13.4	24.5	6.7	5.6	14.5	5.6	70.2	
	NSPn	40.1	56.8	6.7	5.6	57.9	0.0	167.0	
	NSPt	53.5	81.3	13.4	11.1	72.4	5.6	237.2	28.5
C	NSPs	13.3	23.3	4.4	4.4	10.0	5.6	61.1	
	NSPn	38.9	61.1	6.7	6.7	62.2	0.0	175.6	
	NSPt	52.2	84.4	10.0	11.1	72.2	5.6	235.6	28.0
D	NSPs	13.5	19.1	4.5	4.5	7.8	3.4	52.7	
	NSPn	41.5	62.8	7.8	6.7	61.7	0.0	180.5	
	NSPt	54.9	81.8	11.2	11.2	70.6	3.4	233.2	31.9
E	NSPs	11.2	14.5	4.5	3.4	5.6	0.0	39.1	
	NSPn	40.2	63.7	6.7	7.8	60.3	0.0	178.8	
	NSPt	51.4	78.2	10.1	11.2	65.9	0.0	216.8	35.0
SD <sup>*</sup>	NSPs	1.21	4.47	1.00	1.28	3.52	2.32	12.28	
SD	NSPn	1.75	3.74	0.49	1.25	2.16	0.00	8.22	
SD	NSPt	1.53	2.26	1.46	0.05	2.62	2.32	8.43	5.54

363 <sup>†</sup>NSP: non-starch polysaccharides; <sup>‡</sup>s: soluble; <sup>#</sup>n: non-soluble; <sup>§</sup>t: total; <sup>\*</sup>SD: standard deviation.

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367 **Table 4. Metabolisable energy and nutrient availability of the experimental wheat DDGS**368 **samples determined from 71 to 75 days of age.\*:#**

DDGS	AMEn‡ [MJ/kg DM#]	DMR§ [g/kg]	NR† [g/kg]	FD* [g/kg]
A	13.64 <sup>b</sup>	0.666	0.695	0.851
B	13.19 <sup>a</sup>	0.642	0.678	0.874
C	13.26 <sup>a</sup>	0.649	0.682	0.884
D	13.52 <sup>ab</sup>	0.640	0.676	0.876
E	13.48 <sup>ab</sup>	0.671	0.707	0.889
CV%‡	2.4	5.5	5.3	5.5
SEM¶	0.112	0.0126	0.0129	0.0143
P	0.048	0.317	0.396	0.415

369 \*Each mean represents values from eight replicate pens of two turkeys each; ‡AMEn: apparent  
 370 metabolisable energy, N-corrected; #DM: dry matter; §DMR: dry matter retention; †NR:  
 371 nitrogen retention; \*FD: fat digestibility; ‡CV%: coefficient of variation; ¶SEM: standard error  
 372 of the mean.

373 <sup>a,b</sup> Within AMEn values in a column not sharing a common superscript are significantly  
 374 different.

375 #The determined values for AMEn, DMR, NR and FD of the basal diet were 13.90 MJ/kg DM,  
 376 0.663, 0.706 and 0.900, respectively.