



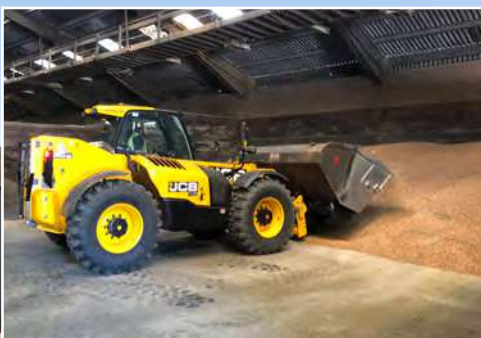
Simon Robbins, Sales Manager, Cherwell Valley Silos, pictured with BBC Countryfile's Adam Henson

Cherwell Valley Silos are situated almost in the centre of England, just South of Banbury in Oxfordshire, and are ideally placed to take advantage of UK-grown raw materials from all over the country and to service feed mills distributed throughout the UK. Established in 1961, the company originally concentrated on grain storage and processing of various by-products for the ruminant feed industry. For example, dried coffee residue – CHERCO - was widely used in the ruminant sector for many years.

In the early 1970s the company invested in American 'jetsploding' technology to cook cereals. In 1978 the plant was significantly modified to be able to process imported soya beans into Full Fat Soya – CV-SOY - for the specialist requirements of young pig and chicken diets. The processing at Cherwell Valley Silos is effectively a cooking plant capable of close to 20t per hour - it enhances the digestibility of the protein and starch contents of the materials and reduces the anti-nutritive factors in the soya. The combination of high digestibility and retention of the natural triglyceride soya oil makes Full Fat Soya an ideal constituent for high performance diets.

CV-SOY is one of a few remaining locally manufactured sources of Full Fat Soya and is experiencing renewed interest with the prospect of a local supply of UK-grown soya beans - so much so that we recently hosted BBC Countryfile with Adam Henson to discuss the future use of the crop in our product.

In the early 1990s a new product - PURA - was conceived which incorporated the relatively widespread crop of domestic oilseed rape. The plant was perfectly set up to cook and handle high oil products and be used to upgrade the original varieties of single zero



(i.e. low erucic acid but high glucosinolate) rapeseed to render them suitable for feeding to mono-gastric animals – primarily broiler poultry.

PURA is a blend of oilseed rape and domestic feed peas and beans. The inclusion of peas and beans in the product enables the feed manufacturer to widen the range of protein sources in the diet and reduce the reliance upon imported soya meal – significant in the face of European initiatives seeking to reduce imports.

Practically, reducing soya can have a markedly beneficial effect on litter quality and reduce the incidence of hock and breast blisters/ burns. The pulses also act as a very effective carrier for the high quality oil derived from the rapeseed. The unique cooking and further processing within the plant upgrades the nutrient digestibility and reduces the anti-nutritive factors in beans, increasing their performance potential compared to using the straight feed ingredients.

PURA has grown significantly in volume as the UK broiler industry has expanded – and continues to expand to this day. Incorporating over 50% domestic peas and/or beans, PURA has made Cherwell Valley Silos one of the biggest and most flexible inland homes for domestic pulses. In many previous seasons the demand for UK pulses into PURA exceeded the available supply and suppliers frequently resorted to imports! As broiler production tends to be fairly constant throughout the year Cherwell Valley Silos have a steady demand for peas and beans. With turkey feed production also using PURA, October to November demand is particularly good!

There is a perceived need to increase the production of UK protein sources. Cherwell Valley Silos process the materials to increase their ability to be used more widely across a broader range of livestock and at higher inclusion levels than the straight raw materials themselves. Who knows, if the UK Soya crop is successful and with the support of UK pulse growers, we could be able to offer a full portfolio of products manufactured from UK grown soya beans, rapeseed, peas and beans?

