

UK Pulses across the UK and around the world

In previous Pulse Magazines we have looked at how more beans are going into British kitchens, and the way our beans are shipped to overseas markets. In this issue Howard Jackson of l'Ansons discusses how UK-grown peas and beans are used in their micronized animal feeds, and travel from Yorkshire across the UK and around the world.

"We are one of the UK's leading manufacturers of animal feedstuffs and have been serving farmers across the North of England and nationwide since 1900," explains Howard. "As a family business, we are known for our highly professional and friendly service, supplying high quality livestock feeds from our factory in the small market town of Masham, North Yorkshire.

"We buy as much raw material as we can from around 400-500 trusted growers in and around Yorkshire and the north of England, and we work with growers to find the best varieties to suit our needs and their farms. For example, our Yorkshire-sourced peas are mainly the variety *Campus*, while further north and into Northumberland the variety *Zero4* is more suitable for growers.

"As well as peas, our micronized feeds are made from a wide range of raw materials – we are major buyers of UK-grown beans – as well as wheat, barley and oats, along with maize and soya."

The flaked and ground micronized products - whether from pulses or other inputs – are ideal for customers who prefer to feed 'straights' and are suitable for a wide range of diets, particularly for young animals.

As most will know, micronizing is the name given to a cooking process that uses infrared rays to cook cereals and pulses at lower temperatures and for shorter times than other heating methods. The raw materials are passed under the burners on variable speed belts to achieve the desired level of cook. The product is then passed through a roller mill to create flakes that can be used whole or ground into a meal.

The benefits of micronized feeds are that they offer improved nutritional value over feeding the same materials uncooked, giving increased available energy and improved digestibility due to the gelatinisation of starch molecules during the



Looking out from the control room at the feeds going through the production process.

cooking process. A factor that is particularly beneficial in starter diets for young animals and poultry.

Gelatinised starch has higher rumen by-pass and ileal digestibility than raw starch. Disrupted cell walls allow improved nutrient access to intestinal enzymes, and micronization also affects water holding capacity and increases gut transit time as well as improving by-pass protein without affecting ileal digestibility.

Both peas and beans are a source of protein rich sulphur amino acids – they can improve production parameters and improve feed conversion due to greater availability of nutrients and a higher energy than other forms. They can also improve feathering in poultry.

Micronized peas are suitable for all classes of animal and are of particular use in companion animal diets and for small pets.

As well as providing an excellent source of highly available nutrients for a finished diet, micronized pea and bean flakes also contribute aesthetically to the product's appearance. When used in a coarse ration, they add vibrant colours and texture to the mix and provide a more natural look than coloured extrusions.

Howard: "Our animal feeds, whether micronized peas and beans or other quality rations, are shipped from here across the UK and to 38 countries around the world: to feed sheep in Cyprus ... racing camels in the Middle East ... and thoroughbred bloodstock in Australia."



Howard Jackson is l'Ansons Group Grain Buyer and purchases the pulses, grains and other raw materials required by the mill. His role also includes managing stock and overseeing the transportation and logistical side of this process. He also works in research and development, trialling different cereals and pulses.

"The most rewarding parts of my job are being fair as a business, hearing the positive reputation being generated via word of mouth - and looking at the month end results."