



# Commodity Guide

## Wet Distillers Grains

### Product Description

**Wet Distillers Grains (WDG)** is the product left after converting the starch portion of the grain to ethanol. Corn or a mixture of corn and other grains is subjected to a yeast fermentation, which converts the starch to ethanol. The ethanol is removed by distillation and the remaining nutrients, such as protein, fat, fiber, vitamins and minerals, are concentrated in the WDG. Yeast cells produced during fermentation also contribute high quality protein, vitamins and growth factors to the WDG.

#### TYPICAL ANALYSIS\*:

		DM	As Fed
Dry Matter	%	100.0	33.0
Crude Protein	%	30.0	9.9
Fat	%	10.0	3.3
Crude Fiber	%	5.0	1.6
ADF	%	15.0	5.0
NDF	%	35.0	11.6
NE <sub>L</sub> (Rum) Mcal/lb.		0.90	0.30
NE <sub>M</sub> (Rum) Mcal/lb.		0.95	0.31
NE <sub>G</sub> (Rum) Mcal/lb.		0.77	0.25
NFC	%	15.9	5.2
Calcium	%	0.08	0.03
Phosphorus	%	0.85	0.28

\*Listed data are average values only and not considered as guarantees, expressed, or implied, nor as a condition of sale. For guaranteed specifications refer to label.

### Storage and Handling

WDG can be kept for up to three weeks on a concrete floor. Open bunkers are the most common method of storing WDG. Addition of concrete or wood sides to the storage facility will minimize surface exposure of the WDG, reduce spoilage and maximize heat retention in the

winter. Allowing WDG to spoil in the bunker during storage doesn't affect growing cattle or feedlot cattle performance but will result in increased shrink and nutrient losses. Spoilage generally begins within a few days (5 to 7 days after production) at the surface of the storage pile and is greater in summer than winter. The shelf-life of WDG may be extended by limiting oxygen during storage, although storing in combination with other feeds such as soybean hulls, ground corn stalks or with the inclusion of a preservative may also extend the duration of storage. The threat of spoilage often makes it impractical for smaller feeders, who can't utilize enough WDG within a few days of purchase to take delivery of semi-truck loads of WDG.

### Use and Application

WDG has a pleasant, cooked cereal odor and a light tan color. It is very palatable to livestock. For ruminants, it is an excellent all natural protein and energy source and it is a significant source of "bypass" protein. Research estimates about 50% of WDG protein escapes rumen degradation. The energy content of WDG is equal to corn. Since the energy in WDG is derived from its high levels of fat and digestible fiber rather than starch, it is a good feedstuff to use for adding extra energy to rations without causing acidosis. Depending on the class of livestock and other feed ingredients in the diet, WDG can be added at up to 15 – 30 % of the ration dry matter.

Getting a nutrient spec sheet, label or sample results is imperative for working this product into rations as the standard values may be out of date.