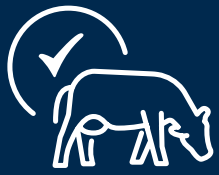




Feeding sprouted wheat to dairy and beef cattle



Feed value of sprouted wheat for cattle

- ✓ **Sprouted grain kernels** are equivalent to unsprouted kernels in nutritional value for cattle, unless they have reached an advanced stage of sprouting.
- ✓ **Cattle feeding studies found** no differences in animal performance or conversion efficiency when cattle were fed wheat with up to 60% of all kernels sprouted.

Parcels of wheat downgraded due to sprouted kernels based on Falling Number test therefore represent an opportunity to buy wheat of comparable nutritional value with the same animal performance potential at a lower price per unit energy and protein.





What is sprouted wheat?

Wheat kernels may sprout (germinate) if exposed to wet conditions just before or during harvest.

Wheat kernels pass through stages of germination (early to advanced).

Sprouted wheat kernels should not be infected with moulds.



Wheat kernels at various stages of germination
(Source: Dr. J Barrero, CSIRO)



Mouldy wheat kernels





Feeding sprouted wheat to cattle



- Process sprouted wheat as you would process non-sprouted wheat.
- Feed sprouted grains by weight, not by volume, like all grains.
- Do not include at more than 40% of total ration.
- To manage the risk of mould growth and mycotoxins when feeding sprouted wheat to cattle, it is wise to take precautions:
 - Introduce sprouted wheat gradually into the ration over 2 weeks, including initially at no more than 20% of the total ration on a dry matter basis.
 - Monitor animals for any productivity and health problems. If any concerns, consult a veterinarian.
 - Include a buffer and rumen modifier as required and take other measures to manage the herd's ruminal acidosis risk.
 - Consider including a mycotoxin binder in the ration.
 - If transitioning from corn to wheat as grain in ration, do so in 3 stages over 4 weeks, while maintaining daily feeding rates of grain and good quality forage.



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