

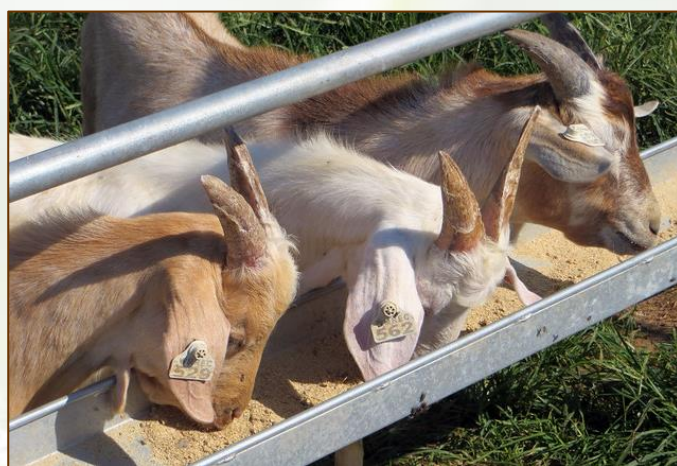
Soyhulls

“the almost perfect feed”



Soyhulls are the “almost perfect feed” for ruminants like sheep and goats. They are a readily fermentable source of energy, as well as digestible fiber which is important for maintaining rumen health. Depending on cost and availability, soyhulls can replace some of the hay and/or grain in the diet. They are a good supplement to pasture diets, especially when forage quality is low, as they can improve the overall digestibility of the diet.

Soyhulls, are the outer seed coat of soybeans (*Glycine max*). They make up approximately 8% of the bean and are a by-product of soybean processing for meal and oil. They are removed during processing and either blended back with the meal to produce 44 percent soybean meal, or they are used as a feedstuff or ingredient in rations for livestock. Pelleted soyhulls have a higher bulk density and are easier to transport and store than unpelleted hulls. They are equal nutritionally and can be stored for an extended period in an upright bin or open-fronted trench.



In contrast with grains, the energy in soyhulls comes from highly digestible fiber. Using soyhulls as an energy source reduces the risk of acidosis. At the same time, soyhulls are not a good source of roughage or “effective fiber.” Long-stem fiber should still be part of the diet.

There is some risk of choking when animals eat soyhulls too fast. Fatalities can occur. The risk can be minimized by mixing the hulls with other feeds or by top-dressing them with other feeds. Feeding soyhulls when the animals are “full” is another option. The risk of choking is less when animals are self-fed soyhulls.



Nutrient composition of soyhulls (book values)

Nutrient	Percent
DM	90
TDN	77
CP	13
Ca	0.55
P	0.17
Ca: P	3.24
Fiber	38
NDF	64
ADF	46
Cu, ppm	17