Better Birds, Better Eggs: How Soybean Meal Supports Performance

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In the layer industry, performance isn't just about how many eggs are laid; it's about consistency, quality and the long-term health of your birds. Nutrition plays a leading role, and consistent soybean meal stands out as a key contributor to flock performance.

With its high-quality, highly digestible amino acids, consistent soybean meal, like U.S. soy, helps layers efficiently convert feed into energy, growth and egg output. The result? Birds that are healthier, more productive and more consistent, day after day.

The power of consistent nutrition

Your birds thrive on predictability. A stable, nutrient-dense diet helps maintain steady egg size and shell quality while supporting overall flock health and longevity. Quality soybean meal consistently delivers a reliable amino acid profile that meets the demanding needs of high-producing layers, resulting in more uniform egg size, stronger shells and fewer production dips.

Studies of U.S. soybean meal demonstrate the effect of consistency in soybean meal, producing heavier eggs – averaging 65.4 grams – compared to 62.1 grams for birds fed soybean meal from less consistent areas.

That's a difference of over 3 grams per egg, which translates directly into increased egg mass production and economic value.

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Better digestibility means better efficiency

Not all proteins are created equal. Ileal digestibility across key amino acids is important, as higher digestibility means your birds can absorb and use more of what they eat, leading to improved feed conversion and more productive flocks.

Chicks fed a consistent, highly digestible soybean meal achieved significantly better gain per feed ratio in research comparing soybean meal sourced from the US (0.585 gain per feed ratio), Brazil (0.568) and India (0.550). Similar digestibility advantages apply to egg quality, where efficient nutrient utilisation translates directly into better egg production performance.

Healthy birds are productive birds

Layers under nutritional stress can exhibit signs of reduced production, weak shells or health complications that impact your profitability. Feed rations built with high-quality soybean meal support immune function, energy levels and overall well-being, helping your birds maintain optimal performance through stressors such as weather changes, moult transitions or flock movements.

In trials comparing different soybean meal sources, egg quality parameters, including Haugh unit, albumin height, and yolk index, were significantly superior in groups fed dehulled soybean meal derived from U.S. Soy during the growing period.

These quality improvements persisted throughout the laying cycle, demonstrating that early nutrition establishes lasting benefits. Additionally, eggshell strength was significantly greater in flocks, reducing cracked eggs and improving overall product quality.

> *Healthy birds don't just lay better – they stay in the game longer.*

Feed that pays off

While egg prices fluctuate, feed performance should not. With egg prices elevated in recent years, maximising every bird's output has never been more important. Soybean meal helps unlock the full genetic potential of your layers, converting feed into value through higher egg mass, more consistent production, and a stronger return on investment per bird.

Research across multiple trials confirms that broiler chicks fed on diets sourced from areas with consistent, high-quality soybean meal showed improved growth rates and superior feed efficiency compared to those fed soybean meal from other origins, with gains compounding across the entire production cycle.

For broilers grown to market weight, these advantages translate into measurable economic benefits – similar principles apply to layer operations, where feed efficiency and production consistency drive profitability. The right nutrition makes all the difference at every stage of production. Soybean meal is a dependable, high-performance ingredient that supports healthy birds, consistent output and long-term profitability for poultry producers.

Sustainability that drives consistency

Farming practices in the U.S. demonstrate how precision agriculture techniques – including targeted nutrient application, conservation tillage and soil health management – can create exceptional year-to-year consistency your nutrition program depends on.

This consistency is not accidental. Sustainable farming practices produce soybeans with predictable nutrient composition and digestibility, enabling you to formulate with confidence and reduce costly safety margins in your feed rations.

These soybeans maintain superior amino acid digestibility coefficients compared to other origins, a direct result of farming practices that prioritise both environmental stewardship and product quality.

> *Sustainable production creates sustainable business performance.*

Nutrition that delivers

Layer operations depend on ingredients that perform consistently, cycle after cycle. A consistent soybean meal product provides the digestibility, nutritional consistency and quality layers need to reach their full genetic potential – translating into heavier eggs, stronger shells and improved feed efficiency that directly impact your bottom line.

When nutrition programs are built on a foundation of consistent, high-quality ingredients, birds respond with the performance that drives profitability.

References are available from the author on request

