



Open Sesame to Unlock Dakota Gold Treasure

RESEARCH SUMMARY

Dakota Gold has proven to be one of the best buys for producers due to the value of its nutrient profile; this statement has been demonstrated through Sesame, one of the more popular software programs available to producers and nutritionists to perform cost comparison between ingredients. Researchers at the Ohio State University developed Sesame to help producers identify “good buys” for different ingredients. Through this program, we discovered Dakota Gold represents one of the best buys for producers, being a source of both protein and energy.

BACKGROUND

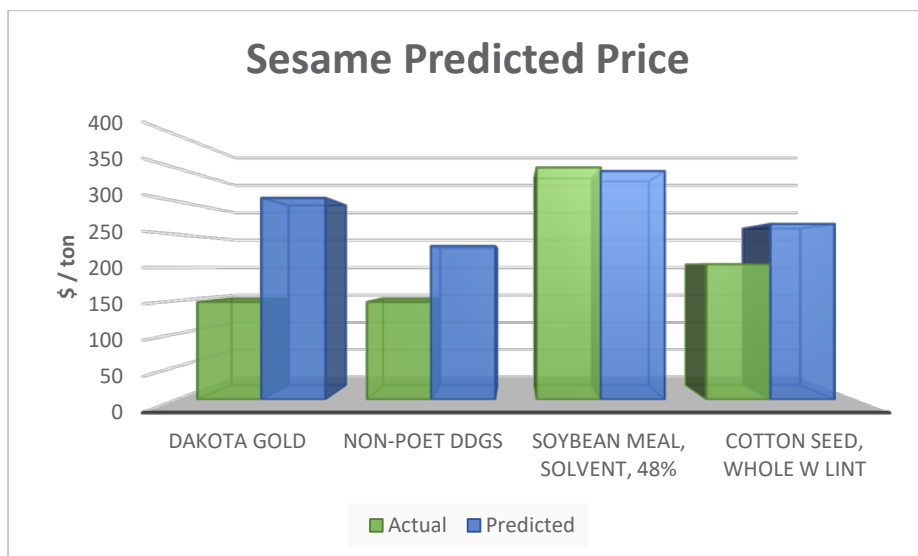
When formulating feeds, we often find ourselves struggling on how to best compare the nutritional value of several different feeds. We can use very basic calculations such as price per unit of protein or energy. However, these calculations fail to capture the true value of ingredients such as DDGS that provide a good source of both protein and energy. A better approach for this type of comparison uses commercial software, such as Sesame, that accounts for several ingredient characteristics to calculate a relative value. Using this program, producers and nutritionists input nutrient profiles and costs for ingredients available for their farm or region. They then identify which specific nutrients they want to include in the comparison and Sesame provides a relative feed value for each ingredient.

RESULTS

To provide an example of this tool, we recently compared ingredients typically used in dairy cow formulations for the Upper Midwest region. We used current prices reported by Feedstuffs and selected rumen degradable protein, digestibility of rumen undegradable protein, effective NDF, and non-effective NDF as the nutrients to determine the value. Figure 1 illustrates the results from this comparison in a condensed version, whereas Figure 2 offers a more comprehensive overview.

- DDGS as a whole continue to represent one of the best buys for producers. In this particular example, DDGS provide over \$80/ton more value than what it costs.
- Dakota Gold’s nutrient profile adds over \$70/ton more value than non-POET DDGS. This relates to different fiber characteristics and improved protein digestibility.
- The current prices of some commonly used ingredients compare very similarly to their nutritional value. This represents an opportunity to include an alternative ingredient and possibly reduce feed costs.

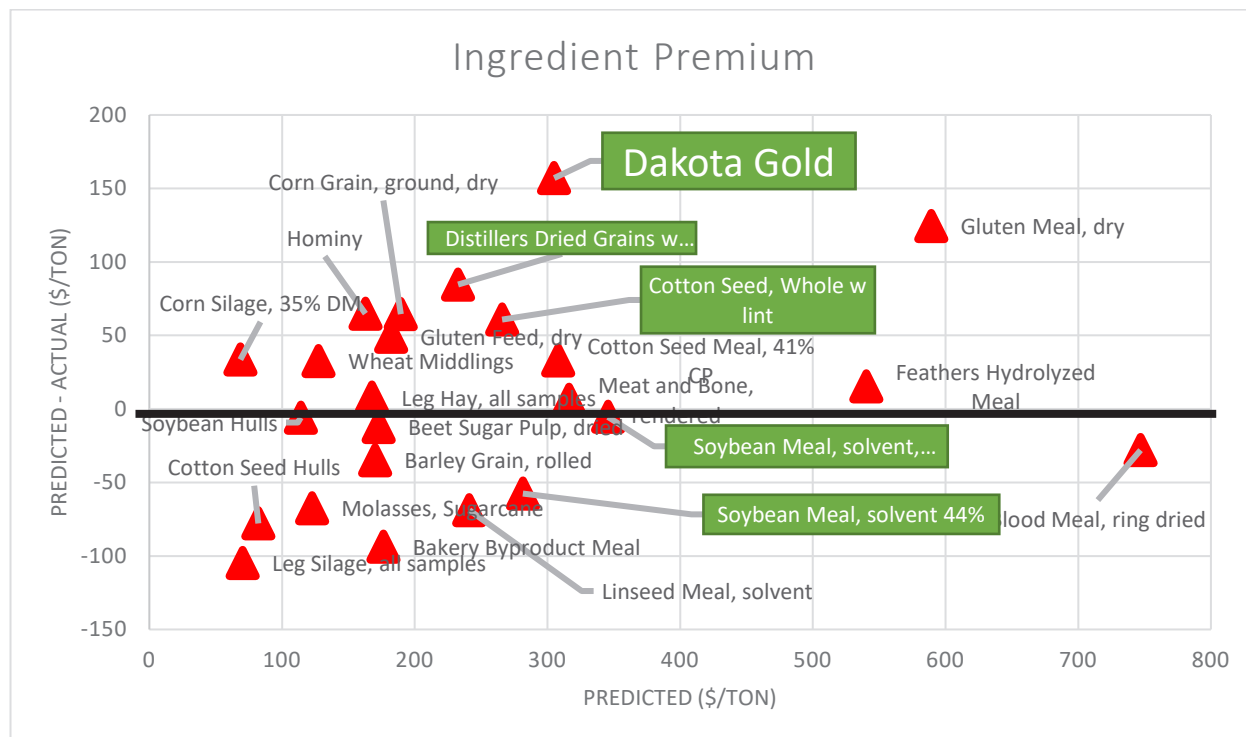
(Figure 1)



*These results are not a guarantee of nutritional value, as laboratory results are influenced by factors beyond the control of POET Nutrition.



(Figure 2)



It's important to note a number of factors on this table. First, the actual price reflects the Upper Midwest market price (\$/ton). Secondly, the predicted price is the nutritional value (\$/ton) based on NEI, RDP, digestible RUP and effective NDF. Finally, greater "Predicted-Actual" values represent better value for producer. The horizontal axis represents the predicted or nutritional value of the ingredient while the vertical axis shows the predicted minus the actual value. In other words, ingredients at the top of the figure represent the "best buy" while ingredients to the right of the figure represent the most value.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, compared with several commonly used dairy ingredients, Dakota Gold represents one of the best buys for producers. Ingredient availability and market prices will change this comparison and as a result, we encourage you to evaluate how Dakota Gold can reduce your feed costs.

If you would like a **personalized Sesame comparison based on your ingredients** or more information about Dakota Gold, please let us know.

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