



Mazuri® DDGS Update- More Information for Feeding Your Alpacas

The ingredients that can be used to create a nutritious alpaca diet are numerous, and there are some standard ingredients that can be found in most alpaca diets, including corn, alfalfa, soybean meal, and oats. In a premium diet, ingredients will be chosen for their nutrient content and animal health and safety. Mazuri® diets only contain top-quality grains, grain products and hays that are US sourced. One ingredient that is no longer used in our alpaca diets is dried distillers grains and solubles (DDGS). DDGS are a major by-product of the production of ethanol from corn. DDGS are often a very economical ingredient and are often used for production agriculture animals destined for slaughter. However, while DDGS may be a suitable dietary ingredient for some species, we no longer use DDGS in our alpaca diets due to the potential for mycotoxin and antibiotic presence.

The fermentation and distillation processes by which ethanol and DDGS are produced may result in concentration of mycotoxins into the DDGS at levels up to three times higher than the original corn source (Wu and Munkvold 2008). Mycotoxins are toxic or carcinogenic chemicals produced by fungus growing on crops. When ingested, these compounds can cause a number of health effects in animals. To make matters extremely complicated, there are a huge number of different mycotoxins, and their effects on animals vary depending on the number and amount of mycotoxins to which an animal is exposed. However, it is known that alpacas and other camelid species are susceptible to the effects of mycotoxins (e.g., Koenig 2007; Osman, El-Sabban et al. 2008).

In addition to potential for mycotoxin contamination in DDGS, there is a potential for antibiotic residues in DDGS. Ethanol producers may use antibiotics as part of the manufacturing process, and compounds such as penicillin, virginiamycin, erythromycin and tylosin have been found in DDGS (Sellers, 2009).

Based on the issues associated with DDGS, Mazuri® Alpaca diets no longer contain this ingredient. With respect to our Mazuri branded products, our mandate is to make the best diets for all captive exotics. For more information about Alpaca diets or any other Mazuri® product, visit us at www.mazuri.com.

References:

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- Sellers, R. 2009. Senior CVM official provides FDA insight into future of feed regulation. American Feed Industry Association News. <http://www.afia.org/Afia/NewsAndPress/Feedgram/Feedgram2009Issues/FGMarVol23.No6/McChesney.aspx>
- Wu, F. and G. P. Munkvold (2008). "Mycotoxins in ethanol co-products: modeling economic impacts on the livestock industry and management strategies." *J Agric Food Chem* **56**(11): 3900-11.