



Apparent and true digestibility of protein and amino acid in feedstuffs used in Nile Tilapia feed as determined by the technique of dissection¹

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ABSTRACT - The objective of this study was to determine the coefficients of apparent and true digestibility of protein and amino acids of five feedstuffs (corn, wheat bran, soybean meal, corn gluten meal and fish meal) in 900 sex-reversed Nile tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*) of the Thai strain during the growth phase, with an initial weight of 315±8.45 g. A total of 750 fish were distributed according to a randomized block design (repetitions in time) into five treatments with six replicates of 25 fish each. The remaining 150 fish were fed a protein-free diet to measure endogenous protein and amino acid losses in order to determine the true digestibility of these components. Each tested diet contained a single protein source, which consisted of one of the evaluated feedstuffs. Digestibility was indirectly estimated using chromic oxide at 0.50% as marker. Digesta was collected from the last 5 cm of the distal intestine (between the ileal-rectal valve and the anus) using the dissection technique. Apparent digestibility coefficients of protein and amino acids were, on average, 74.69 and 73.62% for corn, 73.74 and 72.81% for wheat bran, 86.01 and 84.66% for soybean meal, 85.19 and 84.29% for corn gluten meal, 76.74 and 75.56% for fish meal, respectively. True digestibility coefficients of protein and amino acids were, on average, 85.21 and 83.97% for corn, 84.41 and 83.74% for wheat bran, 87.22 and 87.51% for soybean meal, 87.97 and 87.34% for corn gluten meal, and finally 79.58 and 78.44% for fish meal, respectively.

Key Words: digestible amino acids, endogenous loss, protein-free diet, *Oreochromis niloticus*

Introduction

One of the biggest challenges of fish production is to obtain high productivity with the lowest possible waste discharge in the environment. This particularly applies to nitrogen and phosphorus excretion in intensive fish production systems that depend exclusively on balanced feeds (Sugiura et al., 2001; Furuya et al., 2005; Lanna et al., 2005).

The evaluation of the digestibility coefficients of feedstuffs is an important tool to determine the nutritional values to be applied in the formulation of nutritionally-complex fish feeds. The determination of digestibility coefficients is usually based on fecal measurements, and essentially depends on the conditions and methods applied in digestibility trials (Portz, 2001).

Some researchers have tried to determine which methodology of nutritional evaluation best represents the feedstuffs inside the digestive tract of fish, and which is also convenient, fast, cheap, and that can be routinely used. However, despite these efforts, a standardized method to evaluate protein and amino acid

digestibility in fish is not yet available (Vandenberg & De La Noue 2001; Abimorad & Carneiro, 2004).

Among fecal collection techniques, settlement collection is the most commonly used (Cho et al., 1982), but feces fragmentation and leaching of fecal components may result in an overestimation of digestibility values (Glencross et al., 2007). The techniques that prevent any nutrient leaching require removing the fish from the water and collecting fecal samples directly from the distal intestinal region, such as the dissection technique (Austreng, 1978; Windell et al., 1978; Henken et al., 1985).

The objective of the present study was to determine apparent and true digestibility coefficients of protein and amino acids in some feedstuffs used in Nile tilapia feeds, using the dissection technique for fecal collection.

Material and Methods

A total of 900 sex-reversed Nile tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*) of the Thai strain, with 315±8.45 g initial weight, was used. Out of the total 900 fish, 750 were distributed according to a randomized block (repetition in time)

experimental design into five treatments with six replicates of 25 fish each. The remaining 150 fish were fed a protein-free diet in order to determine endogenous protein losses, which were used in the calculation of the true digestibility coefficients of protein and amino acids. The treatments consisted of five test diets, each one including a single protein source (corn, wheat bran, soybean meal, corn gluten meal (60% CP), or fish meal).

Diets were formulated to contain 32% crude protein to evaluate protein feedstuffs (soybean meal, fish meal and corn gluten) and 6.5% crude protein to evaluate energy feedstuffs (corn and wheat bran) (Table 1). Crude fiber, calcium and phosphorus (except for fish meal), vitamin and mineral levels were similar in all experimental diets. Cellulose was added to achieve 3.90% crude fiber in all diets. In addition, diets contained 0.50% chromic oxide (Cr_2O_3), which was used as a marker for digestibility determination (Table 2).

The fish meal used in the present experiment was locally produced, and contained 53.39% crude protein, 25.42% ashes, 6.89% calcium and 4.16% available phosphorus on an as-fed basis.

Fish were maintained in six polyethylene tanks, with 300-L capacity each, and equipped with individual aeration systems, water supply, and bottom outflow in a minimal water recirculation and renewal system of 25.0% per day.

Water was supplied to the tanks from the water treatment system of Universidade Federal de Viçosa (UFV), and was previously dechlorinated and warmed using electrical resistances at a temperature controlled by a thermostat.

Tank water was daily measured at 07:30 and 17:30 hours with the aid of a 0 to 50 °C mercury-in-glass thermometer. Water pH and dissolved oxygen were monitored every seven days using a potentiometer and an oximeter, respectively.

A photoperiod of 12 hours of light was applied using mixed lamp bulbs controlled by an automatic timer.

Animals were fed pelleted diets. Before the experimental period, increasing amounts of the experimental diets were supplied during three days until regular intake was obtained.

The duration of the digestibility trial was nine days, with three days for adaptation, five days for supply of the experimental diets, and one day for digesta collection.

The experimental diets were supplied at 2% live weight to all treatment groups four times daily, at 09:00, 12:00, 15:00, and 18:00 h, divided in equal amounts.

On day 5, fish were placed in a bucket with ice for stunning, and sacrificed. Fish were laterally opened to remove the content of the distal intestinal segment at 5 cm from the anus (between the ileal-rectal valve and the anus) and placed on a petri dish. Using surgical scissors, the intestine was longitudinally opened and the content was removed with a spatula and placed in a different petri dish. The digesta of each experimental unit, consisting of 25 fish, was pooled into a single sample. All the collected material was frozen at -70 °C and then freeze-dried for 72 hours in order to prevent amino acid break down.

The analyses of dry matter and crude protein content of the experimental diets and of the digesta, as well as

Table 1 - Chemical composition of feedstuffs¹

Amino acid	Corn	Wheat bran	Soybean meal	Corn gluten	Fish meal
Essential					
Arginine	0.32	1.00	3.07	1.93	2.99
Histidine	0.21	0.44	1.05	1.18	1.12
Isoleucine	0.23	0.45	1.89	2.48	1.91
Leucine	0.81	0.86	3.16	10.6	3.27
Lysine	0.20	0.61	2.66	0.97	3.48
Methionine	0.14	0.24	0.55	1.41	1.42
Phenylalanine	0.33	0.59	2.12	3.89	1.97
Threonine	0.26	0.49	1.68	2.00	1.98
Valine	0.32	0.66	1.96	2.77	2.42
Non-essential					
Aspartic acid	0.45	1.04	4.86	3.73	4.36
Glutamic acid	1.23	2.60	7.64	13.47	5.76
Alanine	0.49	0.68	1.82	5.55	3.16
Cystine	0.15	0.30	0.55	1.04	0.39
Glycine	0.26	0.79	1.78	1.58	4.2
Serine	0.33	0.65	2.21	3.29	1.98
Tyrosine	0.25	0.46	1.53	3.2	1.53
Dry matter	88.68	88.19	91.01	92.48	91.71
Crude protein	7.33	15.88	46.89	63.92	53.39

¹ Values expressed as a percentage of fresh matter.

Table 2 - Ingredient composition of the experimental diets

Ingredients	Diets					
	Protein-free diet	Corn	Wheat bran	Soybean meal	Corn gluten	Fish meal
Corn	-	78.00	-	-	-	-
Wheat bran	-	-	39.50	-	-	-
Soybean meal	-	-	-	70.60	-	-
Corn gluten 60	-	-	-	-	52.74	-
Fish meal	-	-	-	-	-	58.63
Corn starch	82.53	6.80	49.33	18.48	30.94	28.00
Soybean oil	6.20	6.20	6.20	6.20	6.20	6.20
Cellulose ¹	5.60	3.73	0.25	0.15	4.85	5.60
Calcitic limestone	0.10	0.70	1.15	1.00	0.90	0.00
Dicalcium phosphate	4.00	3.00	2.00	2.00	2.80	0.00
Vitamin and mineral supplement ²	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
Vitamin C ³	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05
Sal	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
Antioxidant (BHT)	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02
Chromic oxide	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100
Calculated composition						
Crude protein (%) ⁴	0.00	6.50	6.50	32.00	32.00	32.00
Dig. energy (kcal/kg) ⁵	2716	3058	2911	3076	3245	3125
Crude fiber (%)	3.90	3.90	3.90	3.90	3.90	3.90
Total calcium (%)	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	4.04
Available phosphorus (%)	0.55	0.50	0.39	0.45	0.49	2.44
Total lysine (%)	0.00	0.19	0.26	1.96	0.53	2.00

¹ Cellulose: crude fiber - 69.54%.

² Composition per kg product: vit. A - 1,200,000 IU; vit. D3 - 200,000 IU; vit. E - 1,200 mg; vit. K3 - 2,400 mg; vit. B1 - 4,800 mg; vit. B2 - 4,800 mg; vit. B6 - 4,800 mg; vit. B12 - 4,800 mg; vit. C - 48 g; folic acid - 1,200 mg; Ca pantothenate - 12,000 mg; vit. C - 48,000 mg; biotin - 48 mg; choline chloride - 108 g; niacin - 24,000 mg; Fe - 50,000 mg; Cu - 3,000 mg; Mn - 20,000 mg; Zn - 30,000 mg; I - 100 mg; Co - 10 mg; Se - 100 mg.

³ Vit. C: ascorbic acid-2-monophosphate calcium salt, 42% active principle.

⁴ Analyses conducted in the laboratory of Ajinomoto Biolatina Ind. and Com. Ltda and in the Animal Nutrition Laboratory of the Department of Animal Science (LNA/DZO) of Universidade Federal de Viçosa (UFV).

⁵ Values estimated based on the coefficients of energy digestibility of the feedstuffs, according to Boscolo et al. (2002) and Pezzato et al. (2002).

chromic oxide concentration in the digesta were conducted at the Animal Nutrition Laboratory of the Department of Animal Science (LNA/DZO) of Universidade Federal de Viçosa (UFV), according to the procedures described by Silva & Queiroz (2002).

The analyses of the amino acid content of the experimental diets, feedstuffs, and feces were conducted at the laboratory of Ajinomoto Biolatina Ind. and Com. Ltda, using high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC). Tryptophan and proline contents were not analyzed.

Apparent and true digestibility of protein and amino acids was determined by calculating the indigestibility factor, according to the equations proposed by Rostagno & Featherston (1977), as follows:

1 – Indigestibility factor (IF):

$$IF = \frac{Cr_2O_3 \text{ in the diet}}{Cr_2O_3 \text{ in the digesta}}$$

2 – Apparent digestibility coefficient of crude protein (ADCCP):

$$ADCCP(\%) = \frac{CP \text{ diet} - (CPE_1 \times IF_1) \times 100}{CP \text{ diet}}$$

where: CP = crude protein; E₁ = digesta of the evaluated diet and IF₁ = indigestibility factor of the tested diet.

Amino acid excretion values obtained from fish fed the protein-free diet were used to determine true digestibility coefficients.

3 – True digestibility coefficient of crude protein (TDCCP):

$$TDCCP(\%) = \frac{CP \text{ diet} - (CP \text{ digesta} \times IF_1 - eCP \times IF_2) \times 100}{CP \text{ diet}}$$

where: CP = crude protein; IF₁ = indigestibility factor of the tested diet; eCP = endogenous crude protein excreted in the digesta and IF₂ = indigestibility factor of the protein-free diet (PFD).

4 – Apparent digestibility coefficient of amino acids (ADCAA):

$$ADCAA(\%) = \frac{mg \text{ AA/g diet} - mg \text{ AA/g } E_1 \times IF_1 \times 100}{mg \text{ AA/g diet}}$$

where: AA = amino acids; E₁ = digesta of the evaluated diet and IF₁ = indigestibility factor of the tested diet

5 – True digestibility coefficient of amino acids (TDCAA):

$$TDCAA(\%) = \frac{mg \text{ AA/g diet} - (mg \text{ AA/g } E_1 \times IF_1 - mg \text{ AA/g } E_2 \times IF_2) \times 100}{mg \text{ AA/g diet}}$$

where: AA = amino acids; E₁ = digesta of the evaluated diet; E₂ = digesta of the protein-free diet (PFD); IF₁ =

indigestibility factor of the tested diet and IF_2 = indigestibility factor of the protein-free diet (PFD).

Results and Discussion

The average water temperature during the experimental period was 28.0 ± 0.39 °C. Average water pH was 6.6 ± 0.13 and average dissolved oxygen, 5.9 ± 0.54 ppm. Water was heated using electrical resistances and water temperature was controlled by a thermostat, which allowed obtaining uniform water temperatures during the entire experimental period. These values are within the range recommended for rearing Nile tilapia, according to Popma & Phelps (1998).

The apparent digestibility coefficient of crude protein (ADCCP) from corn (74.69%) was similar to that obtained for wheat bran (73.74%; Table 3), and consistent with the results of Ribeiro et al. (2011), who observed relative values of 83.57 and 82.87%, respectively, despite obtaining different absolute values. On the other hand, Gonçalves et al. (2009) found ADCCP value of corn was 89.76%, which was lower than that obtained for wheat bran, of 93.54%.

In corn and wheat bran, average amino acid apparent digestibility coefficients were 73.62 and 72.81%, respectively (Table 3). Among the essential amino acids, leucine presented the highest apparent digestibility coefficient in corn (79.20%), in agreement with the findings of Wilson et al. (1981) and Furuya et al. (2001). In wheat bran, the amino acid presenting the highest digestibility was arginine

(80.09%), as also observed by Ribeiro et al. (2011), who obtained a value of 84.97%.

Threonine was the essential amino acid with the lowest apparent digestibility coefficient in corn (70.53%) and wheat bran (69.70%), which was also observed by Wilson et al. (1981), Gonçalves et al. (2009) and Ribeiro et al. (2011). This low threonine digestibility may be explained by its high concentration in the mucin layer of the intestinal mucosa (Fuller, 1994) that, along with its low content in corn and wheat bran, would result in lower digestibility values.

In protein feedstuffs, soybean meal ADCCP (86.01%) was similar to that of corn gluten (85.19%), whereas fish meal (76.74%) presented the lowest ADCCP of the feedstuffs of this group (Table 3). Soybean meal ADCCP was lower than those determined by Furuya et al. (2001), of 92.72%; by Pezzato et al. (2002), of 91.56%; by Boscolo et al. (2002), of 89.28%; by Gonçalves et al. (2009), of 94.13%; and by Ribeiro et al. (2011), of 91.12%. The apparent digestibility coefficient of crude protein in corn gluten obtained in the present study was also lower than those observed by Pezzato et al. (2002), of 95.96%; by Meurer et al. (2003), of 97.61%; by Köprücü & Özdemir (2005), of 89.00%; by Gonçalves et al. (2009) of 89.32%; and by Ribeiro et al. (2011), of 90.07%. However, it must be stressed that in these studies, feces were collected using the settlement method, whereas dissection was used in the present study.

The ADCCP of fish meal was consistent with that obtained by Pezzato et al. (2002), of 78.55%. However, the

Table 3 - Apparent digestibility coefficients of crude protein and amino acid in the evaluated feedstuffs as determined by the technique of dissection¹

Item	Corn	Wheat bran	Soybean meal	Corn gluten	Fish meal
Crude protein	74.69	73.74	86.01	85.19	76.74
Essential amino acids					
Arginine	78.26	80.09	89.59	88.42	81.93
Histidine	72.12	72.62	85.83	80.88	80.74
Isoleucine	73.96	73.25	83.30	82.11	72.41
Leucine	79.20	78.25	84.17	87.98	74.08
Lysine	72.40	70.03	85.44	83.84	70.30
Methionine	71.62	72.44	84.12	83.33	75.75
Phenylalanine	72.64	74.52	86.52	83.86	75.88
Threonine	70.53	69.70	86.90	84.51	81.04
Valine	73.46	73.19	84.05	84.52	74.04
Non-essential amino acids					
Aspartic acid	71.87	72.3	86.52	86.90	66.63
Glutamic acid	71.43	69.44	84.44	91.60	76.96
Alanine	79.39	77.75	87.28	85.59	76.42
Cystine	70.03	66.72	78.32	79.16	78.50
Glycine	76.13	73.21	77.86	77.60	74.92
Serine	74.11	70.06	83.16	84.12	73.89
Tyrosine	70.82	71.33	87.02	84.24	75.39
Mean	73.62	72.81	84.66	84.29	75.56

¹ Values expressed as percentage, on as-fed basis.

ADCCP of fish meal results reported in the literature can reach values of up to 90.66% (Meurer et al., 2003) in Nile tilapia. Aksnes et al. (1997) comment that the quality of fish meals available in the market is extremely variable, as it depends on raw material and processing conditions. Analyzing 27 fish meal samples, Romero et al. (1994) obtained 84.5 to 97.0% protein digestibility for rainbow trout. Brazilian fish meals often present low digestibility coefficients because they are made from processing residues, and may present high ash content and low-quality protein derived from bone protein matrix, skin, scales, and viscera (Boscolo et al., 2004).

Mean apparent digestibility coefficients of amino acids in soybean meal, corn gluten and fish meal were 84.66%, 84.29% and 75.56%, respectively (Table 3).

In the present study, among the essential amino acids, arginine presented the highest apparent digestibility coefficient (ADC) of all protein feedstuffs tested, with values of 89.59% for soybean meal, 88.42% for corn gluten and 81.93% for fish meal. In most studies found in the literature with Nile tilapia and other fish species, arginine also presented the first or the second highest ADC values among essential amino acids for soybean meal (Wilson et al., 1981; Yamamoto et al., 1998; Furuya et al., 2001; Köprücü & Özdemir, 2005; Abimorad et al., 2008; Ribeiro et al., 2011), for corn gluten (Yamamoto et al., 1998; Abimorad et al., 2008; Ribeiro et al., 2011) and for fish meal (Wilson et al., 1981; Yamamoto et al., 1998; Furuya et al., 2001; Abimorad et al., 2008; Ribeiro et al., 2011).

Isoleucine, on the other hand, presented the lowest ADC among essential amino acids for all evaluated protein feedstuffs, with values of 83.30% for soybean meal, 82.11% for corn gluten, and 72.41% for fish meal. Isoleucine was also the essential amino acid with the lowest ADC value obtained by Furuya et al. (2001) for soybean meal; by Yamamoto et al. (1998), Gonçalves et al. (2009) and Ribeiro et al. (2011) for corn gluten; and by Yamamoto et al. (1998) for fish meal. Isoleucine is a hydrophobic amino acid located inside the protein, hindering the hydrolysis of its peptide bonds (Nissen, 1992), which may explain its low digestibility.

The values of endogenous losses of protein and amino acids obtained in the present study (Table 4) were greater than those obtained by Ribeiro et al. (2011) in the same fish species and weight range.

Methionine and cystine presented the lowest endogenous losses, as previously observed by Wilson et al. (1981), with channel catfish; Yamamoto et al. (1998), with common carp; and Ribeiro et al. (2011), with Nile tilapia.

Table 4 - Mean endogenous crude protein and amino acids values as determined using a protein-free diet (PFD) and obtained by the technique of dissection

Amino acids	PFD intake, mg/g
Arginine	0.465
Histidine	0.351
Isoleucine	0.444
Leucine	0.647
Lysine	0.337
Methionine	0.265
Phenylalanine	0.490
Threonine	0.541
Valine	0.490
Aspartic acid	0.712
Glutamic acid	0.858
Alanine	0.502
Cystine	0.234
Glycine	0.541
Serine	0.470
Tyrosine	0.443
Crude protein	11.01

These results may be partially explained by the lower content of sulfur amino acids both in the mucin layer and in pancreatic secretions compared with other amino acids (Pozza et al., 2003).

There are few reports in the literature on true protein digestibility coefficients for fish, except for the studies of Wilson et al. (1981) with channel catfish (*Ictalurus punctatus*); Yamamoto et al. (1998), with common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*), rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) and red sea bream (*Pagrus major*); and Ribeiro et al. (2011), with Nile tilapia.

Crude protein true digestibility coefficients obtained for corn (85.21%) and wheat bran (84.41%) (Table 5) were lower than those determined by Ribeiro et al. (2011), of 90.02 and 89.62%, respectively.

The obtained values of mean total digestibility coefficients of amino acids (TDCAA) for corn and wheat bran (Table 5) were lower than the results of Ribeiro et al. (2011) for corn (89.60%) and for wheat bran (89.14%), working with Nile tilapia during the growth phase.

The TDCAA value determined for soybean meal, corn gluten and fish meal (Table 5) were lower than those found by Yamamoto et al. (1998) in common carp, of 92.20% for soybean meal and 90.60% for fish meal, and by Ribeiro et al. (2011), of 93.58% for soybean meal, 92.50% for corn gluten and 86.01% for fish meal.

Mean TDCAA values of the protein feedstuffs obtained in the present study (Table 5) were lower than those determined by Ribeiro et al. (2011) and Yamamoto et al. (1998). On the other hand, Wilson et al. (1981), working with channel catfish and also using dissection for feces collection,

Table 5 - True digestibility coefficients of protein and amino acids in the evaluated feedstuffs as determined by the technique of dissection¹

	Corn	Wheat bran	Soybean meal	Corn gluten	Fish meal
Crude protein	85.21	84.41	87.22	87.97	79.58
Essential amino acids					
Arginine	88.77	86.68	91.70	92.04	84.46
Histidine	85.10	86.92	89.40	85.04	84.50
Isoleucine	86.35	86.95	86.06	84.99	75.29
Leucine	84.43	88.51	86.69	89.63	76.92
Lysine	86.76	80.09	87.53	89.46	72.34
Methionine	84.60	89.25	88.31	86.27	78.81
Phenylalanine	82.11	86.47	89.20	86.17	78.99
Threonine	81.93	81.15	89.83	87.69	81.05
Valine	83.13	83.17	86.94	87.42	77.19
Non-essential amino acids					
Aspartic acid	82.33	81.61	88.63	89.87	69.32
Glutamic acid	75.97	74.08	86.28	93.26	79.30
Alanine	86.14	87.83	90.39	90.06	78.86
Cystine	80.24	78.39	82.26	82.57	84.81
Glycine	89.68	83.05	81.15	79.64	77.12
Serine	83.42	78.27	85.73	86.57	76.86
Tyrosine	82.49	87.39	90.07	86.74	79.17
Mean	83.97	83.74	87.51	87.34	78.44

¹ Values expressed in percentage, on as-fed basis.

obtained lower values, of 84.20% for soybean meal and 72.50% for fish meal.

The digestibility coefficient values of the protein fraction of the evaluated feedstuffs were, in general, lower than those reported in the literature, but most studies used the settlement technique for fecal collection (Yamamoto et al., 1998; Furuya et al., 2001; Pezzato et al., 2002; Boscolo et al., 2002; Meurer et al., 2003; Köprücü & Özdemir, 2005; Gonçalves et al., 2009; Abimorad et al., 2008; Ribeiro et al., 2011). The influence of fecal collection technique was confirmed by some studies that compared the settlement and dissection techniques (Hajen et al., 1993; Storebakken et al., 2000), which causes differences in the determination of digestibility coefficients. These results are consistent with the theory that there is a trend in techniques that use fecal material naturally excreted in the water, such as settlement, to obtain higher digestibility values due to the possible leaching of nutrients in the water (Spyridakis et al., 1989). On the other hand, some authors mention that intact protein can be absorbed in the lower intestine of many fish species (Sire & Vernier, 1992; McLean et al., 1999), supporting the hypothesis that the material collected by the dissection technique may not have been completely absorbed, thereby resulting in lower digestibility values than those obtained by settlement techniques.

Conclusions

The apparent digestibility coefficients of protein and amino acids of the tested feedstuffs were 74.69 and 73.62%

for corn, 73.74 and 72.81% for wheat bran, 86.01 and 84.66% for soybean meal, 85.19 and 84.29% for corn gluten and 76.74 and 75.56% for fish meal, respectively. The true digestibility coefficients of protein and amino acids of the tested feedstuffs were 85.21 and 83.97% for corn, 84.41 and 83.74% for wheat bran, 87.22 and 87.51% for soybean meal, 87.97 and 87.34% for corn gluten and 79.58 and 78.44% for fish meal, respectively.

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