



Pea Facts—Poultry

- **Nutrients and Economics:** Peas are a good source of protein and a medium source of energy in poultry diets. They can be used in all classes of poultry. Economically, they may fit best in layer diets. They may be feed to broilers and turkeys, however; economics may restrict high inclusion levels.
- **Layer Diets:** Peas have been proven to be effective in layer diets in many studies. When layers are fed up to 50% peas in the diet, there is no effect on egg production, feed intake, or feed conversion. Actually egg weight has been found to increase with increasing amount of peas in the diet. However, due to some anti-nutritional factors, it is suggested that peas are limited to 33% of the diet. When layer diets are properly balanced for energy and amino acids, adequate performance can be reached.
- **Broiler Diets:** Up to 80% of the diet can come from peas in broiler diets as long as the diet is balanced for energy. In fact, when comparing a diet based on peas to a diet based on corn/soy, growth rate may be better. However, the economics of the added energy suggests that peas are included at a lower rate.
- **Turkey Diets:** When feeding peas to turkeys, the diet may contain higher levels of peas as the birds mature and approach market rate. Turkeys weighing 12 to 16 pounds can receive a diet containing at least 30% peas when the economic conditions allow. In a starter diet, 25% peas may be included in the diet and in a finishing diet 55% may be included without affecting growth rate, feed efficiency, or meat quality.



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