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## **Overcome the new crop challenge with a hard-working xylanase**

For many, harvest may well be a time for reaping the rewards of a hard year's work, but for nutritionists and producers the approach of the new crop harvest can pose a real challenge. Incorporating new crops can negatively impact performance, affecting feed conversion and other production indicators. By taking into account nutrient content variation and using a hard-working xylanase to deal with any viscosity issues, producers can ensure that performance and profitability remain on track.

Variation in the viscosity and moisture content of new cereals can cause issues in digestibility, and can negatively impact gain, feed conversion and health, in both swine and poultry – which means this time of year can be difficult for nutritionists and producers across Europe.

However, it is well established and known in the industry that the use of a xylanase enzyme can give nutritionists confidence that they are avoiding any potential negative impact from new cereal variation.

Nutritionists are advised to employ a hard-working xylanase to break down non-starch polysaccharides (NSPs), thereby reducing anti-nutritive effects, lowering digesta viscosity and positively impacting gut health.

By selecting a xylanase, you can target the breakdown of arabinoxylans – the main component of NSPs – into xylo-oligomers, which can have a prebiotic effect in the lower gastrointestinal tract.

AB Vista EMEA technical manager, Dr Gustavo Cordero, says, if possible, nutritionists should start using the newly harvested cereal by dosing it together with old cereal from the previous harvest in a 50:50 ratio, although often the market conditions don't allow this to happen. In some countries it is normal to use new crop cereals straight after harvest together with NSP enzymes.

In Europe, the harvest period has already started or is about to start in most countries. Typically barley is the first cereal to be harvested, quickly followed by wheat, whilst maize harvest is much later. Depending on market conditions it may be advantageous to maximise the use of new crop cereals as soon as possible after harvest.

“Use of a NSP enzyme that effectively reduces viscosity enables the use of viscous cereals like wheat and barley. Econase XT has been shown to reduce viscosity in broilers both in wheat based and in mixed wheat/barley diets, making it an ideal product to be used whilst the main cereals used can vary depending on the market.

“Before using wheat from the new harvest, nutritionists can check its nutritional values, usually using near infrared spectroscopy (NIR), and make any necessary changes in formulation based on protein, starch, fibre and moisture levels.

“It's also important that the selected xylanase is thermostable enough as a liquid or powder, because pelleting conditions and feed conditioning vary widely, even within the same feed mill”, Dr Cordero says.

“Finally, when using xylanase, it's important to choose one that can be easily measured and detected in feed, using a suitable assay, to ensure that the enzyme

is present in sufficient quantity in the final feed and performance and profitability remain on track.”

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**Notes to editor:**

AB Vista is an animal nutrition technology company offering pioneering products and technical services to the global animal feed industry. Since its establishment in 2004, AB Vista has grown to be a top-three player in feed enzymes and is also one of the largest suppliers of natural betaine to the global animal nutrition industry. The company invests heavily in research and development and has a growing portfolio of products and services spanning the poultry, swine, ruminant and aquaculture sectors. AB Vista is headquartered in the UK, with regional offices located in the USA, Brazil, Singapore, Spain, India, China, Germany and Finland.

AB Vista is part of AB Agri, the agricultural division of Associated British Foods, one of Europe’s largest food & retail companies with a market capitalisation of £22 billion.

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