

THE PROTEIN & ENERGY CONTENT OF SOME COMMONLY USED FEEDS

Samples are received from many different environments, soil types, seasons, time of cutting, sowing etc. so variability will always be high. Use of average values for calculating feed requirements can be unreliable. As such, FeedTest offer season averages from samples received in the lab for viewing on our website at: <https://feedtest.com.au/index.php/about/feedtest-information>. This will allow you to see where your sample fits in. It is intended as a guide only and may not apply to all samples of a given type.

However as a quick cheat sheet, the table below indicates the range and average values of protein and energy for some commonly used feed, particularly sheep.

Feed Type	Crude Protein (% of dry matter)		Metabolisable Energy (MJ/kg dry matter)	
	Common Range	Average	Common Range	Average
Hay/Silage				
Pasture (mid-season)	8 – 16	11	6 – 7	7
Lucerne	16 – 25	20	7 – 9	8.5
Clover (early)	15 – 20	18	7 – 9.5	8.5
Oaten/Cereal	5 – 10	8	6 – 8	7
Grass	5 – 10	8	5 – 7	6
Cereal Straw	2 – 5	4	4 – 8	5
Pellets/Mixed Feeds				
	4 – 21	12	6 – 13	10
Cereal Grains				
Oats	6 – 12	9	9 – 13	11
Barley	6 – 17	11	11 – 13	13
Wheat	8 – 23	12	12 – 15	13
Triticale	8 – 23	12	12 – 15	13
Legume Grains				
Lupins	26 – 40	30	12 – 14	13
Peas	18 – 29	23	10 – 13	13
Maize	8 – 13	9	12 – 14	13
Faba beans	18 – 29	25	10 – 13	12

SOURCE: <https://www.feedinglivestock.vic.gov.au/2019/05/02/useful-tables/>