

The amino acid and metabolizable energy composition of a number of South African feedstuffs

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INTRODUCTION

The nutrient composition of South African feedstuffs has been reported by a number of investigators during the past few years (Du Preez *et al.*, 1979; Dennison & Gous, 1980; Du Preez *et al.*, 1981; Gous & Dennison, 1983). It will be noted however, that the last publication appeared 10 years ago and work of this nature can probably never be regarded as completed as product quality and analytical procedures change and thus warrants a continuous reappraisal of nutrient values in feedstuffs. Furthermore the methodology and equipment has only become available in recent years to determine the biological availability of amino acids in feedstuffs on a routine basis. Very little has thus been published in local journals on this subject.

This institution has constantly been involved in the nutrient evaluation of feedstuffs for the feed industry and it was thus deemed necessary to report some results which had accumulated in our laboratory during the past few years.