Soybean meal or canola meal in combination with distillers’ grains?

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Soybean meal, canola meal, and corn distillers’ grains are good sources of protein for dairy cows. Since they have different rumen undegradable protein (RUP) content and amino acid profile, feeding diets that include two or three protein sources is the best strategy for covering amino acids requirements in high producing cows.

A recent metanalysis including 10 scientific publications conducted by the Dairy Knowledge Center’s team (Sánchez-Duarte et al., 2019) did not find difference in production performance and efficiency between cows fed canola meal- or soybean meal-based diets. Both, soybean meal (30% of protein) and canola meal (43%) are low in RUP content, thus they use to be blended with high RUP ingredients such
as distillers’ grain (55%).