

# ANIMAL FEED MILLING AND TMR PRODUCTION

Production control from A to Z at COVAP



**COVAP** is founded in 1959. The farming cooperative based in Pozoblanco, nearby Cordoba integrates milk production and packaging, feed milling plant and feed center for TMR preparation, slaughterhouse and meat processing for the production of the famous Spanish ham called hamon iberico. The feeding plant based in Pozoblanco produces 600 tons of TMR per day to feed 200 farms and 15,000 lactating cows each day.

The feeding plant handles 70 different rations for a total annual production of 530 million kilos of animal feed and 230 million kilos of TMR per year.

**COVAP** was the first Spanish company introducing the TMR production facilities for dairy cattle more than 30 years ago.

Today, **COVAP** distributes TMR to its member every day and provides professional advice on the spot.

**CLAUDIO BALDMAN**, Feed Purchasing and NIR Manager says, “the production of TMR for feeding milking cows starts every day at 5 A.M.

At 7 A.M. trucks are ready to leave the factory for distributing the TMR to the farms.

Measuring the quality of each TMR batch that leaves **COVAP** premises is of paramount importance to respect the prescription given by nutritionists for each farm. The right content of DM and nutrients turns into higher milk production per cow. This is the reason why, taking control of TMR quality

is fundamental for **COVAP**'s success.

Baldman underlines, “Since we produce around 600 tons of TMR per day, our objective is to ensure our customers the ration they receive has the right formulation for their herd”.

We had the need to know precisely the quality of the TMR produced every day as well as the quality of incoming raw materials.

In 2015 we introduced 2 AgriNIR portable NIR analyzers by Dinamica Generale for controlling incoming raw materials quality as well as the formulation of each ration.

The same year we installed the NIR On Board system on the front loader that loads trucks for TMR distribution. The aim was controlling the quality in terms of DM and nutrients (protein, starch, ADF, NDF, ash, crude fat) before TMR delivery. The system connected to a printer in the cabin enables the truck driver giving farmers evidence of TMR quality they buy.



**Baldman says,**

“in 2015 we met **Dinamica Generale** and we began using their portable NIR devices for forage analysis on the spot. From that point, we became partners and we did several installations of NIR systems on forage harvesters within our growers’ network. This enables tracking crop quality from the field thus introducing the **COVAP** concept of supply chain control from field to farm”

“Dinamica Generale is a professional technology supplier; their competence and specialization in NIR technology in the field of animal feed quality control makes the difference. Today we trust their technology more than ever because our customers require controlled TMR quality every day.

If something goes wrong with the herd, farmers put the blame on ration distributed”, says Baldman. With the introduction of NIR systems, we are now capable of demonstrating the quality of TMR distributed to our customers. This is one of the main reason we introduced specific controls during TMR formulation and preparation.

In a nutshell, the NIR systems by Dinamica Generale gave us the control of each and every production phase: from row material selection up to the pre-mix preparation and TMR distribution.

The main advantage we gain is the peace of mind our process had been controlled from the beginning until the end. Farmers know it and they trust us, underlines Baldman.

