

From Jeff Firman, PhD, Professor of Poultry Nutrition, University of Missouri. I have just started doing aquaculture research. There are a number of viable feeds to replace fishmeal as was done more than 20 yrs ago in poultry. These include the obvious such as soybean meal, but probably better is the various rendered by-products such as meat and bone meal, poultry by-product, etc. Additionally there are some new by-products of biofuels production such as corn distillers grains and glycerin.

One of the real issues with fish nutrition is the lack of understanding of practical feeding by researchers who have typically come from biology and wildlife backgrounds rather than production agriculture. In our first experiment with bluegill we replaced fishmeal with Poultry by-products and achieved similar growth at 62% cost savings. A second study exceeded fishmeal performance when we used careful computer formulation of diets. This is not really cutting edge work and should have been done many years ago. Clearly funding of new research should head towards folks experienced with real world feed formulation and use of alternate ingredients.