

Proteins are formed by amino acids and are vital for animal growth and development given the range of functions they fulfil (structural, regulatory, transport, immunity-related, enzymatic, defence...). The protein content is higher in general in the pea family (Leguminosae) than in grasses (Gramineae), particularly in mature plants. Thus, according to their stage of development, plants of the pea family (Leguminosae) in the Basque Country may contain from 15% to 23% crude protein, whilst grasses (Gramineae) contain between 8% and 18%. Species of other families that grow spontaneously on the Vista Alegre farm do not contribute much protein, although the plantains (*Plantago* sp) and fat hen (*Chenopodium alba*) are examples of such plants that contain a certain relevant amount.

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