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NEWSLETTER

January 2024

HAPPY★NEW★YEAR

Be Prepared with a Feed Plan over Summer

Late summer is often dry which means the grass stops growing and we need to make provisions for the animals in our care.

Ensure they have access to good quality pasture hay first and foremost to prevent them gorging on any concentrates you choose to feed, which can lead to stock losses. Lucerne hay can be mixed in to add protein.

Do not feed more than 500gm of grains per animal per day.

Ruminants, eg cattle, sheep, goats cannot be maintained on grain alone – they also need to be eating pasture stubble, straw or hay to help produce enough saliva which aids in breaking down feed so they can gain nutrients from it, and to neutralise acid in the rumen.

Oats or barley fed to sheep do not need to be processed for effective digestion. Whole grain is better as it stimulates chewing and addition of saliva, and breaks down less rapidly in the rumen, reducing the risk of acidosis compared with feeding processed grains. Cattle require processing (rolling or kibbling) of wheat or barley to maximise utilisation of grain. However, oats generally do not need processing.

If grain constitutes a high proportion of the ration, mix 15g of sodium bicarbonate (baking soda) per 1kg grain to help offset the effects of grain overload – bicarb can help to neutralise the acid in the rumen.



Multi Feed or Sheep Nuts

Can be fed as a supplement, but feeding rates on the bag must be adhered to.



Rock Salt

Sodium helps to maintain water balance within an animal which is vital for cell and metabolic function

Salt is essential to promote saliva production and ensure optimum function of the rumen leading to greater feed efficiency

Animals require more salt during hot weather together with clean water



Rock Salt is available all year round at Kiwi Seed per kg or 25 kg bag

KEEP YOUR HORSES WATER SUPPLY FRESH AND CLEAN WITH CREDENCE

Horses are very susceptible to a variety of water-borne diseases, including the toxins from blue green algae. Horses commonly drop feed and forage into their water troughs, providing nutrients for the harmful micro-organisms to use for their own growth and multiplication.

Trials have been shown Credence is effective in controlling contamination in water troughs for horses.

Water is the number one nutrient for all animals. Whilst it is possible to live for many days without food, dehydration rapidly kills. Water quality is often forgotten as a key part of animal nutrition, whereas a great deal of time and money is spent ensuring that feed materials are not contaminated with pathogenic (disease-causing) organisms



Ensure your horses (and other stock) have access to fresh, clean water by using Credence 1000.

Available in packs of 5 tablets in store.

As you harvest your spring vegetables, add nutrients for your next plantings by digging in Kinpack Manure, Meat & Bone and compost.

Remember to stagger your plantings so you will have a continuous supply to harvest.

January is still a good time to plant lettuce, rocket, spring onions, celery, leeks, beetroot, carrots, silverbeet, spinach, kale, zucchini, broccoli, capsicum, beans, sweetcorn, cabbage, watermelon.

Thin out your carrots.

Pick Sweetcorn once tassels start to dry out.

Nip the laterals off tomato plants as they grow and ensure they are well staked. Remove old leaves for good air circulation and to help reduce fungal problems. For tasty, bumper crops keep them fed and watered (too much water though will split them).

Nip off the ends of vines for good-sized cucumbers, pumpkins and squash.

Spray with Yates Success Ultra to control white butterfly caterpillars - especially cabbages, broccoli and cauliflowers. An alternative to this is Derris Dust or DeBug Powder.

Protect your tomatoes from the Psyllid by spraying with Yates Mavrick.

Feed your vege patch once a week with Maxicrop to reduce stress in dryer conditions.

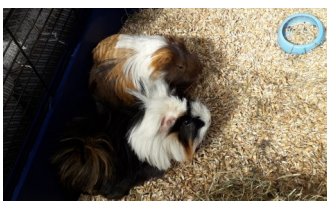
Water deeply every 4 days rather than shallow watering daily.

Putting mulch on your gardens will help reduce the amount of watering it will need and keep roots cooler.

Lawns need to be watered deeply regularly and kept a little longer during the summer months to help retain moisture and keep weeds at bay.

KEEP YOUR CHICKENS COOL OVER SUMMER

- Ensure they have plenty of clean, fresh water available at all times. Keep water containers in the shade all day so that the water stays cool.
- Freeze water in an icecream container and place the container out on hot days so as the ice melts, the chickens will have access to cold water.
- Do not use Apple Cider Vinegar when it's hot. Apples are fine, and can actually help chickens deal with heat stress. Apple Cider Vinegar, on the other hand, is great for many things but heat is not one of them. It raises the chicken's metabolism which in turn raises their temperature - exactly what you need to avoid.
- Freeze a large piece of Watermelon and feed to your flock on a hot afternoon. It contains a high percentage of water. It's fat free, has almost no salt and contains multi-vitamins and antioxidants. The perfect summer food for your flock!
- Make a Frozen Vege Salad - Take some watery veggies - tomatoes, cucumber, sweetcorn, lettuce (tends to go limp with freezing but they still like it!), grated carrot and courgette. Add water and Freeze.
- * Ensure your flock have access to a dust bath as it helps them to get rid of mites and keep cool. The best place for dust their dust bath is in the shade.



Spelt Husk

Suitable for small animal bedding such as guinea pigs.

Also works well in nesting boxes for poultry and as garden mulch.

Available from Kiwi Seed.

We would like to do our bit for the environment by sending out our accounts and newsletters via email.

Please subscribe by emailing us at info@kiwiseed.co.nz.

You can also use the same address to unsubscribe from the newsletter if you wish.

Thank you from all at Kiwi Seed.