Knowledge grows

Fattening in the feedlot

Finishing diets must be tasty, highly digestible and acceptable to the animals to ensure maximum intake. Producers often have usable products on their farms, e.g. grains, hay and crop residues that can be successfully utilised for fattening.

Guidelines for fattening

Processing

Before animals are placed in the feedlot, they should be processed as follows:

- ☐ Dose with a broad spectrum dosing agent for internal parasites.
- ☐ Dip or spray for ticks if necessary.
- ☐ Inject Vit A.
- ☐ Implant steers and heifers with a growth stimulant.
- ☐ Weigh and tag all animals. This will enable the growth rate of individual animals to be monitored.
- ☐ Contact your Veterinarian for a vaccination programme against respiratory infections.

Adaptation

Animals must have 10 to 14 days free (ad lib) access to good quality roughage (hay or even silage). Preferably only roughage must be given on the first day. If animals have already consumed concentrate supplements in the veld, concentrates can be offered on day one already.

For Cattle:

- ☐ Increase the concentrate intake gradually during the first 10 days up to ad lib. feeding.
- ☐ Initially feed 2 kg per day, increase by 1 kg per day until no residues are left.
- ☐ Ensure that the mixture contains the minimum roughage for normal rumen functioning.

For Sheep:

- ☐ Initially feed twice per day if possible.
- ☐ Initially 100 g per day and increase over 10 days by 150 g per day until the animals are fed ad lib.
- ☐ As a guideline an intake of 3 % of body weight must be reached on day 8.

Water

Animals must at all times have access to clean drinking water. This will increase feed intake. Place feed troughs as far away as possible from water troughs.

Roughage

- ☐ The purpose of roughage in high-energy finishing diets is merely to ensure a healthy rumen.
- ☐ For weaners and younger animals 25–30 % roughage may be needed in the ration.
- ☐ All roughage must be coarsely grounded (13 mm)
- ☐ Lower quality roughages such as maize stovers or wheat straw are preferable to high quality roughages such as lucerne.
- ☐ To ensure that the intake of concentrates is not adversely affected, a less palatable roughage is preferred.

Trough space

Cattle

- ☐ Allow 20–30 cm feeding space per head of cattle.
- ☐ There should also be 6,5–13 m^2 floor space per head of cattle/camp.

Sheep

- ☐ Allow 25 cm feeding space/ sheep during the adaptation period.
- ☐ Allow 10 cm/ sheep during the finishing period.
- ☐ There should be 2–3 m^2 floor space per sheep/camp.

Treatment of Acidosis

- ☐ Remove animals from concentrates or concentrates from animals.
- ☐ Dose with sodium bicarbonate (1 packet on 350 ml lukewarm water) or dose with an antacid.
- ☐ Supplement minerals lost during dehydration.

Quality check references

Raw materials	Kg/ mixture	Analysis
Cotton seed oil cake	500	
Feed Grade Urea	350	
Kimtrafos 12 Grandé/PhosSure 12	150	Crude protein 85 %
Feed Grade Sulphur	25	
Feed lime	300	
Salt	75	
TOTAL	**1400**	

Add an ionophore according to the manufacturer's recommendation.

HPC 85 on the veld and cultivated pastures

Raw materials	Finishing meal or phase D	Growth meal
HPC 85	50	50
Maize meal /Hominy chop	700	450
Salt	25	50
Kalori 3000	50	50
TOTAL	**825**	**600**

Composition	%	%
Protein %	12.4	13.7
% of urea	34	43.2
Calcium (%)	1.01	1.38
Phosphorous (%)	0.31	0.32
TDN (estimated)	75	69
ME (MJ/kg) (estimated)	11.5	10.5

The above mentioned mixtures must be available to the animals in feed troughs in the veld. Protect the troughs against rain. Recommended intake is approximately 1 – 3 % of body weight.

HPC 85 on the veld and cultivated pastures

	kg/mixture	
Ingredients	**Cattle**	**Sheep**
Maize meal / Hominy Chop	700	600
Lucerne	-	300
Hay	200	-
HPC 85	50	50
Kalori 3000	50	50

Estimated Composition (DM basis)	Cattle	Sheep
Crude protein (%)	12.56	14.01
% from Urea	28.56	29.85
Ca (%)	0.87	0.89
P (%)	0.34	0.32
TDN (estimated)	76.13	72.53
ME (MJ/kg)	11.42	10.88
Fibre (%)	9.78	13.16

1. *Maize-meal may be partially replaced by small grains.*
2. *Lucerne hay may be replaced with other good quality legumes.*
3. *Veld hay may be replaced by other roughage, e.g. wheat straw, oat hay or maize stovers.*
4. *For the first 10 days of adaptation, palatable roughage should be freely available to animals*
5. *20 l – 30 l of water can be added to the rations*
6. *For the fattening of young calves/lambs, 50 kg cotton-seed oilcake can be added to the above mixtures.*
7. *If these rations are fed to male sheep, add 5 kg ammonium sulphate or ammonium chloride to the mixture.*

Tel: +27 31 910 5100
Mail: animal.nutrition.sa@yara.com