

# Rabbit Management

## Mating

- Young does, small or medium breeds should be bred at 5 months of age.
- Does of giant breeds should be bred at 8 months of age.
- Bucks (small breed) at first mating should be at least 6 months of age.
- Bucks (medium/ giant breeds) at first mating should be 7 to 10 months of age.
- For best results, bucks should not be used for service over 2 to 3 times per week.

## Gestation

- Average gestation period is 31 days.
- Clean hutch 5 days before the doe kindles.
- Nest box bedded deep with straw or pine shavings.

## Kindling

- Litters of 8 are ideal.
- Larger litters should be culled to 8 unless the doe has proven her ability as an exceptional milker and mother.
- Young culled from large litters can be transferred to does kindling on the same day with smaller litters.
- Culling should be done within 2 days after kindling.
- Runts should be removed.

## Care of Young

- Young rabbits should remain in nest box for about 3 weeks.
- Young rabbits are usually nursed for 6-8 weeks.
- Marketed as "fryers" at this age

## Sanitation

- Isolate newly acquired or diseased rabbits from the herd.
- Clean and disinfect cages, water lines, crocks and troughs regularly
- Control flies, rats and mice

## Housing

- Vulnerable to hot weather, rabbits have no way of perspiring and can die if they become overheated
- Insulation and furnaces in winter months will help keep newborn rabbits alive
- Fans are used for cooling and to replace ammonia laden air (caused by urine). Added yucca also helps reduce respiratory disease.
- Self cleaning cages or hutches are a benefit.
- Galvanized wire cages are commonly used
- Nest boxes can be constructed on plywood, or wire boxes with disposable liners.

# Rabbit Feeding Guidelines

TYPE	FEED
Bred Doe	Rabbit 18% Growth Pellet
Show Rabbit	Rabbit 18% Growth Pellet
Young Rabbit	Rabbit 18% Growth Pellet
Lactating Rabbit	Rabbit 18% Growth Pellet
Breeders	Rabbit 18% Growth Pellet
Over Conditioned	Rabbit 16% Maintenance Pellet
Maintenance	Rabbit 16% Maintenance Pellet

Always provide hay to rabbits.

## Forage Extender™

Essential quality fiber for when hay is poor quality or in short supply

- May be used to replace up to half of the forage in the diet on a pound for pound basis
- Features sources of highly digestible fiber - Soy Hulls, and Dehydrated Alfalfa Meal
- No molasses
- 80% digestible fiber vs. a maximum of 50% digestible fiber in hay
- 12% protein vs. hay protein of 5-8% (depending on crop). Provides consistent nutritional content vs. the variability seen in hay.
- Reduces dust and mold exposure
- Yeast Culture is added to aid in the proper digestion of fiber, improving feed efficiency
- Flavored to enhance palatability
- Economical and available: Average 35% cost savings over other hay replacement products
- Available in Forage Extender Mini Bites (standard pellet), or Forage Extender Super Bites (large pellet)
- Suitable for cattle, equines, sheep, goats, rabbits and camelids

# RABBIT



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## Rabbit 16% Maintenance Pellet™

A pelleted ration for pet rabbits, bucks, and dry doe rabbits. Available in 50lb and 25 lb bags.

- Flavored to enhance palatability.
- Excellent choice for breeders who desire an all-purpose feed.
- Recommended for dry does, bucks, or whenever over conditioning (obesity) may be a problem.

Crude Protein %	Min	16.00
Crude Fat %	Min	3.00
Crude Fiber %	Min	15.00
Crude Fiber %	Max	20.00
Calcium %	Min	0.90
Calcium %	Max	1.20
Phosphorus %	Min	0.55
Salt %	Min	0.40
Salt %	Max	0.75
Vit A (IU/LB)	Min	4000.00

### Rabbit 16% Maintenance Pellet Feeding Instructions

Stage of Life	Amount to Feed (oz/head/day)
Maintenance	3.5-6.5 (limit)
Gestation	4.5-8.5 (limit)
Lactation	8.5-17 (free choice)

\*Access to good quality hay is recommended

## Poulin Grain Rabbit Pellet Features for Superior Health and Wellness



**Yucca extract for respiratory health and improved feed efficiency**



**Added magnesium and copper for feed efficiency and rate of gain**



**Low levels of soluble carbohydrates to prevent overload in the hind gut**



**Highly digestible sources of fiber for digestive health, protein, and energy**



**MOS, all-natural yeast product to promote intestinal health**



## Rabbit 18% Growth Pellet™

A pelleted ration for growing rabbits, breeding and lactating rabbits, and show rabbits. Available in 50 lbs bags.

- Flavored to enhance palatability
- Produces finest results when raising rabbits for meat or show
- Optimum levels of vitamins and minerals
- Produces exceptional fur and firm, well-muscled bodies.

Crude Protein %	Min	18.00
Crude Fat %	Min	3.00
Crude Fiber %	Min	15.00
Crude Fiber %	Max	20.00
Calcium %	Min	0.90
Calcium %	Max	1.20
Phosphorus %	Min	0.55
Salt %	Min	0.40
Salt %	Max	0.75
Vit A (IU/LB)	Min	4000.00

### Rabbit 18% Maintenance Pellet Feeding Instructions

Stage of Life	Amount to Feed (oz/head/day)
Growth	4-8 (free choice)
Maintenance	3-6 (limit)
Gestation	4-8 (limit)
Lactation	8-16 (free choice)

\*Access to good quality hay is recommended

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