



Livestock Farming

Handout I

Nutrition Terminology

Balanced ration: A ration that provides all the nutrients, in the proper proportions (including energy, fibre, protein, vitamins and minerals) for the animal's needs based on its age and its level of work.

Concentrate: The grain or grains being fed as part of the ration.

Dry matter: The mass of the ration or feedstuff if the water is "baked off". For example, a sample of mixed meadow hay might contain 85 percent dry matter, so your 60-pound (27.2 kg) bale of hay would actually weigh 51 pounds (23.1 kg) on a dry matter basis (0.85×60 pounds).

Energy: The part of the ration that is made up of sugars, fats and fatty acids and starches used by the body for muscle and nerve activity, growth, fattening and milk secretion.

Feedstuff: Any food intended for livestock consumption.

Fibre: The part of the ration that comes from cellulose and hemicellulose in plant matter; it is broken down in ruminants and horses to create additional sugars and fatty acids.

Forage or roughage: The hay or pasture portion of the ration.

Protein: The portion of the rations that contains amino acids, which are required by the body for cell formation, development and maintenance, especially for muscle and blood cells.

Ration: The combination of foods in a specific diet, for a specific animal or class of animals, at any given time. Includes everything the animal is receiving.

Supplements: The vitamins, minerals or protein being added to the ration.