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## **Rowly Horn Services Summer Edition 2010**

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#### **Summer Formulations**

It is now time to consider changing your diets to meet the bird's requirements during the warmer summer months. The longest day occurs on approx 23<sup>rd</sup> 24<sup>th</sup> December which normally heralds the beginning of true summer weather conditions but who knows after the conditions we have experienced. This year's spring has been cool to mild with very few warm days. The summer feed mixes are more expensive than winter or spring diets. Summer feed mixes are designed around a lower feed intake experienced during the hot weather. Consider reformulating when egg size decreases below market requirements indicating that decreased feed intake has resulted and low consumption of nutrients are occurring.

If you have the means of providing different feed for different age groups please inform me and I will provide formulations to suit. If this is not possible I will formulate to meet the requirement of the young birds which means that older birds are being provided specifications that more than meets their requirements. If the shed contains two flocks and the youngest is over 40 weeks then I would formulate to meet this flocks requirements which would lower the overall cost of feed for this shed. Single age feeding normally involves 3 phase feeding.

I also provide a service of examining feed mixes formulated by you or other providers; I am then able to make suggested changes in areas to obtain improvements

### **Egg size manipulation**

Egg size can be manipulated up or down depending on your markets demand. This requires communication with me to provide the formulations that best suit your requirements.

### **Weather damaged Grain**

Wheat is competitively priced and is the grain of choice. Harvest has been delayed due to the wet conditions. With the amount of rain received before harvest has and will result in many tonnes of weather damaged grain and lots of shot and sprung. I would be very cautious in sourcing supplies of your wheat this season. These weather damaged wheats need to be very low in cost to cover the low protein they are likely to contain and any risk that could be associated with the presents of mycotoxins.

### **Fusarium contaminated wheat**

Fusarium contaminated wheat have been reported and there are risks in feeding these wheats with the mycotoxins produced by this fungus. Mycotoxin inhibitors will need to be considered and your supplier of additives for your feed mixes should be contacted for the best material available to bind these toxins.

### **Sorghum availability**

There are still quantities of last season sorghum in farm storage which could result in lower prices for this grain due to the large quantities of weather damaged wheat that will be available. The estimated tonnage of wheat harvested this year has been revised down compared to earlier forecasts but will still be higher than last year. The next summer crop looks particularly good with most of NSW declared drought free resulting in plans for a large sorghum crop to be sown once access to paddocks are possible. The world inventory of stored grain has increased as parts of the world have had good harvests while Russia a large exporter of wheat had a poor result.

### **Cost of imported feed additives**

The strength of the Australian Dollar should see imports i.e. soybean, additives and amino acids ease. The \$Aus is very volatile recently reaching parity with the \$USA and has eased back by 4% to aprox 96 cents in response to the strengthening \$USA.

### **Sources of phosphorous**

World phosphate prices have eased a great deal from very high levels. This has resulted in the need to assess these minerals monocalcium phosphate (Biofos 21% phosphorus) and dicalcium phosphate to see if they are cost effective in supplying the phosphorus requirements therefore reducing the level of meat meal required in the feed mix and lowering the overall cost. There are many suppliers and sources of dicalcium phosphate and the quality and bio availability can vary widely below the stated value for phosphorus content. Be careful in making the correct decision? The bio availability of monocalcium phosphate is superior to other sources of phosphorus. David Sherwood at CCD can be contacted on 02 87886122 or mobile 0407079869 for supply of Biofos.

## **Phytase enzymes**

Phytase enzymes are economically feasible for inclusion in the ration as these enzymes are designed to release phosphorus contained in plant materials such as grains and vegetable protein meals and will reduce the cost of the mix if formulated correctly into the feed mix. They also allow greater utilisation of the minerals calcium and sodium as well as protein. You need to consider using phytase type enzymes in the feed mix which are cost effective. Dr Aaron Cowieson the Director Poultry Research Foundation the University of Sydney has been advising me in ways of improving the utilisation of Phytase enzyme to better extract phosphorus, calcium, sodium and amino acids from the feed ingredients. Contact me for further assistance.

## **Ratblitz**

I am a distributor of the rodent bait, Rat Blitz from Rural Chemical Industries (RCI) which is performing extremely well. This product is based on crushed biscuit. RCI has added flavours to the blend to encourage consumption. The price is very competitive at \$10 per kg plus GST or \$130 plus GST for a 13 kg bucket. Please contact me for supply which I will deliver or I can arrange delivery. Open the website by clicking on [www.ratblitz.info](http://www.ratblitz.info) for very useful information concerning the control of rodents.

## **Feed pan extenders**

I am also a distributor for the recently developed pan feeder extender. This is an insert that is easily slipped into the pan increasing the depth of feed able to be supplied to the flock in the pan with the main aim of eliminating feed wastage. Some field observations indicate as much as 10g to 15g of feed per hen per day can be saved. On this basis only a short one month payback period is required.

Considering the above statements you should now have my services to customise your feed mix (s) to minimise your feed costs and at the same time meeting the requirements of your flocks during the warmest part of the year.

Please contact me for further information on areas stated above or any other subjects. I look forward to working with you in many various areas. To all my many clients, thank you for your continued support and I wish you all the best for the festive season.

Regards,  
Rowly Horn