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About Pinnacle Feeds Ltd.

Pinnacle Feeds Ltd. was formed as the result of a merger between Roberts Manufacturing company Ltd. and Archer Daniel Midlands (ADM) Barbados Feeds Ltd. in November 2000.

Pinnacle Feeds Ltd. is the sole manufacturer of livestock and poultry feeds in Barbados, however other business enterprises import other brands of livestock and poultry feed from the United States, Jamaica, Trinidad and St. Vincent.

Layer Feeding Programme



FEED	STAGE
Chick Starter	First 6 weeks
Growing Ration	7 -19 weeks
Layer 18%	20 -50 weeks
Layer 17%	After 50 weeks

The Minimum Nutrient composition of Pinnacle Layer Feeds

FEED	PROTEIN	CALCIUM	PHOSPHORUS
Chick Starter	19%	1%	0.7%
Growing Ration	16%	1%	0.7%
Layer 18%	18%	3.8%	0.6%
Layer 17%	17%	4.0%	0.6%

Four vital areas in Layer management are:

- Feed
- Water
- Light
- Ventilation



The PEAK Of Animal Nutrition



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Getting the best performance form your Layers

Our Layer flock are hatched from eggs imported from temperate regions; therefore the local climate does affect the attainment of the Layers’ genetic potential. The greatest challenge is keeping feed consumption at the desired level. During periods of high temperature and humidity producers might notice a decline in feed intake and a fall in egg production. Ensuring that the birds are adequately ventilated is essential.

Attaining correct pullet weights at point of lay

Producers need to concentrate more on pullet production and this will result in better performance during the laying period. The importance of attaining the correct body weight for the pullets cannot be understated. Producers need to weigh their pullets.

Changing feed from Chick Starter to Growing Ration should be based upon weight and not age. Birds should weigh 0.5 kg or 1.1 lbs before that feed change is made. If birds are not reaching their target weights then producers should:

- Cool the birds
- Ensure that the birds have adequate number of feeders and waterers
- Extend the period of time of feeding the current feed

If pullets start to lay and are underweight (under 1.5kg or 3.3 lbs) they must be switched to Laying diets or the birds will deplete their calcium supply and their performance will be severely hampered.

Producers must accept that lightweight birds at point of lay will not reach their peak potential.

The use of light to stimulate pullets to start laying is beneficial, if natural lighting is used for pullets once birds have began laying the hours of light given should never be reduced.

“One feeder is recommended per 25 Layers”

Debeaking

De-beaking should be done at 7 to 10 days then again after 12 weeks preferably around 14 weeks of age if producers want to get the best out of their pullets. This minimizes any growth retardation by allowing the bird to absorb its yolk sac before being stressed by its first debeaking and allowing the bird to complete its development stage prior to its second debeaking.

Top dressing with Course Limestone

Top dressing feed with course limestone is highly recommended. The large calcium particles in course limestone are retained in the gizzard for longer periods because they are digested more slowly than fine ground limestone. This allows a constant release of calcium from the gizzard into the bloodstream. This improves shell strength and quality and is particularly important when eggshell quality is stressed (peak production) and during the hot, humid, rainy season.



Moulting

Layers should be molted not more than once during their lifetime and this molt could be done when the birds exceed 65 weeks of age, but market considerations have to be given preference. Molting should be done according to weight as follows:

- Weigh 15 to 20 birds before molting starts.
- Start the molting process, by withdrawing feed (providing water).
- End the molt when the birds have loss 30% of their bodyweight.

Allowing the birds to loose 30% of their bodyweight is necessary for the layers to regress their ovaries and results in:

- More consistent flock performance
- A more uniform flock
- Good eggshell quality

Space and Equipment Needs

- The number of birds housed per square foot
A minimum spacing of 1.55 sq. ft. per layer is needed.

Age (Weeks)	0-3	3-10	10-17	Over 17
Space per Bird (Sq. ft./Bird)	0.75	1.0	1.35	1.55

- The number of hens allocated per nest.
(One nest per 6 birds).
- The number of hens allocated per waterer.
(One waterer is recommended per 75 birds.)
- The number of hens allocated per feeder.
(One feeder is recommended per 25 Layers.)
- The provision of at least 14 hours of light
(natural and artificial) daily after 24 weeks.

Don’t overcrowd your layers.

Remember the four vital areas in Layer management are:

- Feed
- Water
- Light
- Ventilation

Overcrowding affect the birds in all of these areas.



The difference in housing density between two farms is shown here.

