

POULTRY FEED

First of all, select the ingredients in the right ratio. Then pass them through a disintegrator or pulverize to reduce the size of the particles to the required mesh size. Then weight the different powdered



raw materials as per the formula. Put them into a ribbon blender for uniform mixing. Then add vitamins- minerals mixes and molasses at this stage. When uniformly mixed, extrude the materials to get in pellet form or the finished product. Thus, obtained is taken out as such and is packed in gunny bags.

Generally, we can find 5 different types of poultry feed in the market. These are Layer mash, Grower mash, Chick mash, Boiler starter mash and Boiler finisher mash. We need to maintain the different mixing formula for different types of the product.

Layer mash/ feed

Layer Feed is designed for the smaller poultry producer, it is a wholesome nutritionally balanced feed formulated to meet the needs of a laying hen throughout its laying cycle. It can be fed as a complete diet or supplemented with household scraps or vegetables.



Where the percentage of other feed sources is over 50%, extra calcium should be supplemented in the form of Oyster shell grit or a similar product to

ensure good egg shell quality is maintained. If it is fed as 100% of the diet then feed approximately 125g per hen per day during spring/summer and 130g per bird per day over the cooler months. The ingredients are grains, grain by-products, animal proteins, plant proteins, animal fats, vegetable oils, minerals, amino acids and a specialised vitamin / mineral premix.

Grower mash

The grower mash is given to poultry birds from the 8th week to the point the first egg drops (around the 17th week). Grower Mash is balanced with vitamin and mineral premix to help chicks achieve their optimum potential without any growth hormones.

The main features are

- Balanced energy and amino acids, major and trace minerals
- Crushed and processed grains to maximize digestive potential
- Ingredients carefully selected for high digestibility
- Crushed and processed grain to maximize digestive potential
- Growth hormone free

Benefits

- High feed utilization
- Enhances digestibility
- Lack of separation and wastage due to high quality ingredients being used

Broiler starter mash

The broiler starter mash is formulated for the farmers who raise for the live markets and sell them at the age of six to eight weeks. The broilers should be fed the starter mash from the time they are one day old to 16 days old.

The approximate feed consumption for the broilers will vary between 600g to 800g per bird.



Table 1.1: Ingredients used in broiler starter mash formulation

Ingredients	Quantity (kg)
Maize	61
Soya bean meal	18
Wheat offal	4
Full fat soya	13.5
Bone meal	2.5
Lysine	0.2
Methionine	0.3
Premix	0.25
Salt	0.3
Total	100

Broiler grower mash

The broiler growers mash is in pellet form. The broiler grower mash is fed to the chickens from the age of 17 days to 30 days. Just like in the broiler starter mash, the rations in the broiler grower mash contain a growth promoter and coccidiostat but no growth hormones or animal-by-products. The feed consumption per bird will approximately be 1.5kg.

Table 1.2: Nutrient content for a broiler grower mash formulation

Ingredients	Quantity (kg)
Maize	45
Soya bean meal	7.5
Wheat offal	12
Limestone	5
Bone meal	2.5
Groundnut cake	12
Premix	15
Toxin binder	0.25
Salt	0.15
Methionine	0.3
Lysine	0.15
Total	100

Broiler finisher mash

The broiler finisher mash is fed to the chickens from the age of 30 days to the age of 38 days. Every bird will consume approximately 1kg of broiler finisher mash from the age of 30 days to the age of 38 days. The broiler finish mash is in the form of pellets.

Table 1.3: Nutrient content for a broiler finisher mash formulation

Ingredient	Quantity (kg)
Maize	66
Soya meal	18.55
Dried grain	7
Bone meal	5
Oyster meal	2
Broiler premix	0.5
Salt	0.25
Methionine	0.5
Lysine	0.1
total	100

Feeding chart for broilers

In order to have a healthy and strong flock of broilers, we have to follow a feeding chart

- Day 1 – 21: Starter Mash. Each chick will eat 1 kg in 21 days.
- Days 21 – 35: Finisher Mash. Each chicken will eat 2 kg in 14 days.
- Days 35 – 42: Finisher Mash. Each chicken will eat an extra 1 kg in 7 days.

Change feed slowly:

- Day 20: 75% Starter Mash and 25% Finisher Mash
- Day 21: 50% Starter Mash and 50% Finisher Mash
- Day 22: 25% Starter Mash and 75% Finisher Mash

When chicks are out of the brooder, remove feeding trays. The broilers should be ready to sell at 35-42 days at 1.5 kg.