



All about
**Livestock
Feeding**

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Livestock Feeding

Introduction

This is an overview of several livestock feeding practices. Please keep in mind that in the succeeding discussions, the use of “livestock” refers to cattle, horses, sheep, goats, and pigs.

Choosing the Proper Food

First on the list of livestock feeds is prepared feeds sold by major manufacturers – Purina is one such company.

For amounts, consult specific breed information. Feed amounts for livestock are often expressed as x pounds of feeds per y pounds of animal, and vary by foodstuff.

Moreover, below is a list of natural livestock feeds:

Cows	Hay Grains Fresh grass Straw
Horses	Good-quality grass hay, such as fescue, prairie, brome or orchard grass Legume hay such as alfalfa Grains (oats) Fresh grass
Sheep	Fresh grass Hay
Goat	Fresh grass Hay (Goats will, in fact, eat anything...they just can't DIGEST everything!)
Pigs	Table scraps Mash w/animal protein and vegetables (Pigs are omnivores, and can eat a diet quite close to that of a human being's)

Animals get fresh grass from grazing in pastures. When fed, most animals receive food twice a day. Some animals will happily overeat – so be vigilant! They can suffer from many of the same problems as overfed humans: obesity and arthritis, among other things.



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Water

Don't forget that your animals will need ample potable water available. Their needs can range anywhere from one gallon per day for sheep, up to ten gallons per day for cattle.

Seasonal Feeding Tips

Throughout the country, livestock needs to receive food during cold seasons, and supplemental feeds the rest of the time.

Other Nutritional Concerns

All species of livestock have specific needs, ranging from salt to various minerals and vitamin requirements. Your vet and peers can recommend appropriate dosages and formulations. In addition, many livestock feed manufacturers and suppliers will be happy to tell you about their products.



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