

Feeding Indigenous Chicken

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Confined chicken fed on commercial feeds

Indigenous chicken feeding



Feeding is important for maintenance and production of meat and eggs. Lack of feed or water will reduce resistance to diseases and parasites, and can increase flock deaths.

Production capability of a bird is reduced by lack of enough feed and water. Egg production and growth of indigenous chicken maybe improved through supplementary feeding.



Supplementary chicken feeding from the Naivasha long feeder

Feed components

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Energy feeds: maize, white sorghum, millet, wheat, rice and their by-products (bran, polishing). 	<i>Maize grains</i> 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Protein: termites, insects, worms, omena, small fresh water shrimps, fish meal, sunflower cake, cotton seed cake, Soya bean and sweet lupin. 	<i>Fish meal</i> 

- **Minerals:** The most important minerals are calcium and phosphorous.
- **Vitamins:** Green grass and fodder normally provide Vitamin A and D, whereas Vitamin B may come from fresh cow dung.
- Pre-mixes containing minerals and vitamins can be purchased

Poultry Production Systems

Free range feed resources

- Chicken are not confined and are provided with shelter, mostly at night.
- They rely on scavenging for feeds which include kitchen waste, crop by-products, and a range of cereal grains, insects and maggots among others.
- They should be provided with at least 12 m² of space to allow adequate feeding.

Semi-Intensive Production system

- Chicken are confined (mainly during planting) and left to scavenge around the farm when there are no crops in the field.
- Chicken feed include scavenged feed resources e.g. Insects, household leftovers among others and can be supplemented with commercial or homemade feeds.

Intensive Production System

- Chicken are fully confined and fed on commercial or homemade feeds.
- Different types of commercial feeds are chick mash, growers mash, layers mash among others.

Home-made rations for different classes of birds using locally available ingredients

Feed type	Chick mash	Grower mash	Layer mash
Ingredients	kg	kg	kg
Ground Maize	40	35	37
Wheat bran	10	10	4
Wheat pollard	20	28	35
Soya bean meal	18	15	9
Fish meal	9	7	8
Limestone	2	4	6
Common salt	0.5	0.5	0.6
DL methionine	0.5		0.02
Di Calcium Phosphate			0.5
Premix(Mineral/vitamins)		0.3	2
HCL Lysine	0.02		
Coccidiostat	0.003	0.03	-

In order to balance nutrients in chicken feeds, pre-mixers like poultry minerals, vitamin, amino acids and coccidiostats can be purchased from reputable feed stockists and added to the formulation.

Type of commercial feeds are;

- **Chick mash:** high protein 19-20%: offered from day old to 8 weeks of age
- **Grower mash:** medium protein 16-17%: offered from 9 weeks up to start of lay.
- **Layer mash:** medium protein 15-17%: offered to hens from when they start laying

Amount to feed		
Age (weeks)	Intake/bird/day (g dry weight)	
	Free range and semi intensive	Intensive
1	12-15	12-15
2	15-21	15-21
3	21-25	21-25
4-6	30-40	34-40
7-8	45-50	30-40
9-15	34-50	50-75
16-27	68-80	80-120



Naivasha long (1m) feeder for about 20 mature birds



Chicken waterer for about 20 mature birds

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