

How to cut cost on home-mixed feed

UNIVERSITY PARK — Poultrymen who grow grain, buy ingredients and home mix their feeds find they can manage to cut their costs if they do as follows:

Plant only varieties of grain that will mature completely by harvest time and can be harvested at a high nutritional value.

Manage crop and soils so that harvesters can pick up crop and completely separate grain from all other

debris without breaking or cracking corn kernels.

Harvest only ripe or mature grain when it can be transported to the bin below 21 percent moisture and in a whole form with highest quality possible.

Save only the best grain for poultry because they are sensitive to moldy or high moisture grain.

Dry all grain to 13 percent moisture or lower and dry it slowly so the grain is not burned. Grain above 25

percent moisture may not be economical to dry. Therefore, it should be fed to other animals rather than poultry.

Store only the best grain in a dry, clean bin — free of trash, larvae, insects, mold, fungus, vermin or debris.

Use grain, if possible, before it becomes 18 months old (after harvest) because fresh grain is good grain.

Grind only the right amount and quality of grain with low moisture content to produce poultry mash of 10 percent moisture or less.

Mix all ingredients carefully in a horizontal mixer. If you use vertical mixers they must be managed closely. Keep them clean and check feed for particle separation.

Blend in all micro ingredients or small amounts so the complete mixing takes place for vitamins, minerals, proteins, fats, carbohydrates and other ingredients such as fiber.

Store mixed feed in an insulated, ventilated bin for two weeks or less to keep fresh feed before the birds.

Feed only high quality mixed feed that is freshly ground and unadulterated with harmful chemicals, trash, molds, or weeds.

Clean up feed in troughs by allowing birds to eat all the feed once or twice a week.

Clean out the boot of the bin and the upper bin and augers and wood bins inside the house once a month or more frequently. Feed hoppers on mechanical feeders should be cleaned every week.

Change rations only when necessary and when the feed consumption, season, sex, age or reproductive cycle dictates a nutrient change.

Experiment carefully with birds by changing feed, particle size, formulation, and low cost ingredients, at a gradual rate.

Keep water, dust, vermin,

dead birds and mice, insects, trash, mold, shear pins, bolts, nails and other debris out of the feed.

Appoint a person on the farm to spend at least one hour per day on feed quality control. Buying and holding quality ingredients is a must for poultry.

Listen to everyone who talks to you about feed quality but filter out and use only that information which will improve your situation.

Feed quality control is the largest single problem for some managers who mix feed on the farm.

If all else fails, then buy a

ready mixed feed and let these 3000 decisions up to a capable feed manufacturing firm. Home mixing feed is a challenging, complex and

profitable task for some, while many fail at this venture - so if you try it, give it your best management ability.

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Md. FFA officer named speaker

WOODSBORO, Md. — National Future Farmers of America eastern region vice president, a young Angus breeder from Woodsboro, Md., will be the keynote speaker July 19 in Wichita, Kan., at a dinner for National Junior Angus Association officer candidates and voting delegates.

Don Trimmer Jr., 20, serves nearly one-half million FFA members in his national officer duties in addition to assisting his family with 250 registered Angus cattle. At the dinner, he will speak to young Angus leaders from across the United States who were elected by their respective states to join forces and establish the National Junior Angus Association.

This national group, representing more than 2,000 Angus youth, will be organized in Wichita in conjunction with the National Junior Angus Heifer Show and National Showmanship Contest. The four days of Angus events will be featured July 19-22 at the Kansas Coliseum and

Livestock Facility in Wichita.

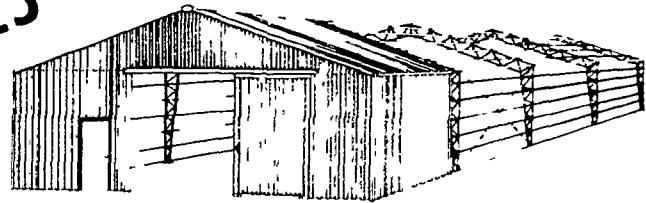
Trimmer, a member of the Walkersville FFA Chapter, has served as state president, chapter president and chaplain, and received his chapter's Star Greenhand Award. He was on the 1976 state-winning livestock judging team and, in 1977, placed as second high individual in the state meats judging contest.

Trimmer also was active in 4-H. He exhibited Angus cattle for nine years and served as a 4-H council member and camp counselor. In high school, Trimmer was a Student Council member and was active in chorus, theater and sports.

Since graduation from high school, he has served on the State FFA Alumni Council, Maryland FFA Foundation Committee and Maryland Joint Ag-Ed Staff Committee, and has participated in state and national institutes on Cooperative Education.

An agricultural education major at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, he has taken a year's leave of absence to carry out his duties as national FFA officer.

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In two important respects the best of pasture differs decidedly from a high-grade concentrate ration. This is in the percentage of fiber (fiber is undigestible and has no feed value) and consequently in the TDN or net energy. Lush pasture will usually contain 18 to 20 percent fiber compared to approximately two percent fiber in ground corn (when both are dried to the same dry matter content.)¹ Since it is impossible to balance rations for grazing animals, energy, vitamins and minerals should always be made available. To insure that the animals' nutrient requirements are met during these upcoming months, we recommend that you consider MOPRO 16% Liquid Protein fed free choice.

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¹ Feeds & Feeding 9th Morrison p165

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