



RABBIT CARE



Available in
25lb. and 50lb.
bag sizes.

FEED
PERIOD:
ALL
STAGES

IFA Rabbit Feeds are formulated with quality ingredients, including high quality alfalfa meal and timothy hay to help provide optimal nutrition for all life stages. It is important to feed your rabbits a balanced diet.



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UNIQUE FORMULA

IFA rabbit feeds are pelleted for ease of handling, improved consumption and less feed waste. IFA rabbit feeds contain mold inhibitors to improve storage life, Yucca Schidigera Extract to reduce ammonia levels and improve overall air quality.



DIGESTIVE HEALTH

IFA Rabbit Feeds contain yeast cultures and prebiotics and probiotics which have been shown to improve fiber digestion for rabbits. A healthy digestive system is important for a healthy rabbit.



BALANCED DIET

Because of their unique digestive systems, rabbits require a diet that is high in fiber and low in protein. Healthy rabbit diets are a combination of pellets, fresh hay, water, and fresh vegetables. Treats, such as fruits or prepared rabbit snacks, can be used sparingly.

RABBIT FEEDING GUIDE

HERD BUCKS: Feed free-choice or at the rate of 4 to 9 ounces per day to supply enough nutrients to a maintenance rabbit to keep them healthy and sound.

PREGNANT/LACTATING DOES: Feed 4 to 6 ounces of IFA Rabbit pellets from breeding until does are ready to kindle. Does will usually eat from 6 to 12 ounces daily until the litter is three weeks old. Does and kits may eat up to 3 lbs daily from three weeks after kindling to weaning, depending on the litter size and breed. Heavy milking does should have feed amounts reduced to 4 to 6 ounces daily at weaning time to aid in drying them up. They may go back on the maintenance ration after 3 to 4 days.

RESTING DOES: Feed 3 to 6 ounces of IFA Rabbit feed with adjustments as necessary to keep individual does from becoming fat at breeding time. Heavy milkers may need extra feed to bring them back to condition while others may need less than the normal allowance to hold their condition.

FEEDING GUIDE CONTINUED

1. Always provide salt spools and fresh, clean water for your rabbits.
2. Rabbits enjoy fresh produce and supplements such as hay, oats, or sunflower seeds, but do not overfeed as it may lead to loose stool or obesity. Treats and supplements should be used sparingly.
3. Measure the amount of feed for each rabbit daily and provide a consistent feeding schedule. Measured amounts should be consumed within a few hours.
4. Increase or decrease feed as necessary to meet the appetite and growth needs of each individual rabbit.

FEEDERS

Place your feed dishes high enough to avoid contamination and fastened if necessary so they cannot be tipped over.

Since rabbits love to chew on wood, metal can be a safer choice for your feed dish. Mounting them on the outside of the cages can make refilling faster and easier, as well as limit contamination.

WATERING SYSTEMS

Fresh water is a major factor in a rabbit's growth. Always keep your water clean and fresh for your rabbits.

RABBITRY AND HUTCHES

- ✓ **FLOORING:** House rabbits in cages or hutches with solid floors or provide some resting boards. For enclosures with wire floors, provide resting boards to avoid sore hocks and foot pads.
- ✓ **COVERAGE:** Provide fresh air and proper ventilation in your rabbitry. Protect rabbits from wind, rain, extreme hot or cold temperatures, and persistent sunlight.
- ✓ **NESTING BOXES:** Furnish nesting boxes or other enclosures to allow for the rabbit's natural burrowing instincts. Nest boxes should give the doe seclusion, provide adequate ventilation and protect the litter from drafts. During winter months, the box could be insulated and filled with straw.



- ✓ **SIZING:** Hutches come in all sizes and shapes. Larger rabbits will need more room. All rabbits should be able to stand upright to look around, and hop a few steps before reaching the end of the hutch.
- ✓ **ELEMENT PROTECTION:** Hutches also need to provide shade for the bunnies. Direct sunlight can lead to heat stroke. On the not-so-sunny days, the hutch needs to provide protection from elements such as rain. In general, a bunny's fur does not shed water, so they can get soaked easily and can get chilled.
- ✓ **UPKEEP:** Keep hutches clean, dry, comfortable and sanitary.

HEALTH AND SANITATION

HEALTH

1. Monitor for ear canker caused by ear mites and treat if necessary.
2. Check regularly for sore hocks as they can result in discomfort and weight loss. Providing a solid platform to alleviate hock sores is helpful.
3. Keep nails trimmed to a reasonable length. When toe nails grow too long they can cause pain in the pads.
4. Check your rabbit's teeth regularly and keep an eye on their eating habits. A diet lacking sufficient solid nibbling food can lead to sharp hooks and decreased appetite.
5. Learn to handle rabbits properly. They should be picked up by grasping the nape (loose skin) and ears in one hand and placing the other hand underneath the breast area (under the belly) or rump.
6. Consult your veterinarian for herd health recommendations.

SANITATION GUIDELINES

A good sanitation program, preventing disease and eliminating parasites, costs far less than treatment.

1. Remove soiled bedding and waste; keep the hutches dry for basic hutch cleanliness.
2. Watering crocks and cans should be thoroughly washed and disinfected as often as possible.
3. Clean and disinfect all nest boxes before using.
4. Any rabbits showing signs of disease or parasites should be immediately isolated from the rest of the herd.
5. Isolate newly acquired rabbits or those returning from shows from the herd for at least 2 weeks.
6. Remember to wash your hands before and after handling rabbits to avoid being a contamination.

BREEDING

- Generally, small breeds mature earlier than larger ones. Polish can usually be bred at 4 months; medium weight rabbits at 6 to 7 months; and the giants at 9 to 12 months.
- The normal estrus cycle is 16 to 18 days, with 2 infertile days at the beginning and the end when the doe lacks interest in the buck. Rabbits are induced ovulators and ovulation occurs only after mating.
- Bucks can be used up to 2 or 3 times per week. As a general rule, one buck should be maintained for every 20 does.
- The most important factor is to keep animals in top body condition. Overweight animals produce unsuccessful matings and poor litter quality.
- Normal weaning time is 8 weeks, although some producers wean at 6 weeks.

BREEDING TIMETABLES

Breeding Program	Kindle to Rebreed	Kindle to Wean	Kindle to Kindle
5 cycle	42	56	73
6 cycle	28	42	60
7 cycle	21	35	51
8 cycle	14	28	45

OTHER SUGGESTED ITEMS

IFA RABBIT 20% BREEDERS CHOICE

IFA Rabbit Feeds are formulated with quality ingredients, including high quality alfalfa meal to help provide optimal nutrition for all life stages. IFA Rabbit 20% Breeders Choice has added protein for breeding does and bucks.



Available in a
50lb. bag.

IFA TIMOTHY HAY PELLETS

IFA Timothy Hay Pellets are a great source of forage for your rabbits. They are certified noxious weed free, and a great source of highly digestible fiber. IFA Timothy Hay Pellets are naturally sun-cured to provide maximum palatability, performance, and nutrition. Feeding a pelleted hay minimized the waste and mess of feeding forage, and provides uniform nutrition in every bite.



Available in a
40lb. bag.

LOCAL FEED

Intermountain Farmers Association is a local farmer-owned cooperative. IFA Bagged Feeds are expertly formulated and locally milled. IFA is focused on manufacturing quality feeds that are precise in the formulation and that deliver consistent nutrition in every bag.



**Expertly
Formulated**



**Locally
Milled**



**Highly
Nutritious**



For more information, and to see other IFA Feeds and products: www.ifacountrystores.com

