Over a Century of Innovation & Trust

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Rabbit Management

General • Housing

Feeding • Breeding & Kindling

Biosecurity • Q&A

Famo Feeds Bunny Bits

General:

- Male rabbits are bucks
- Females are does
- Babies are called kits
- When rabbits give birth it is called kindling.
- Rabbits are prolific breeders and on average kindle 8 young at a time.
- Young are ready for market at 4 – 5 pounds. With proper management they can reach this stage at 8 weeks of age or less.
- Rabbits utilize feed very efficiently.
- Rabbit meat is highly nutritious due to the high protein and low fat and cholesterol.
- Pet rabbits can live 5 – 8 years. The record is 16!
- A rabbit's teeth grow continuously which is why they need to chew.
- Rabbits range in size from 4 lbs to over 16 lbs.

Famo Feeds Bunny Bits:

A 16% protein feed, along with a high fiber level, in a pelleted form. To be used as a complete feed for all classes of rabbit.

FEATURES AND BENEFITS

- 16% crude protein is excellent for pregnant and nursing does, as well as young growing rabbits
- Contains *Yucca schidigera* for increased digestibility and odor control
- Rumen protected niacin helps to improve energy utilization
- Quality ingredients including alfalfa meal help to maintain excellent consumption along with maximum growth
- Product is pelleted to help reduce feed waste

Bunny Bits are designed to be fed to all classes of rabbits. They should be fed as a complete feed to growing and fattening stock and to nursing does to supply the energy these rabbits require for good performance. Resting does may be fed about one third hay to two thirds Bunny bits and pregnant about one-fourth hay to three-fourths Bunny Bits. Use only bright, clean hay free from dusts and molds. Provide plenty of fresh clean water at all times and keep surroundings free from dirt and parasites.

Biosecurity:

If you are showing rabbits or bringing new rabbits into your herd remember to isolate them for at least 2 weeks. ***If rabbits show any sign of disease during this time contact your veterinarian for assistance.*** Continue to quarantine sick animals until they have made a full recovery. If at any time your herd begins to experience a high volume of death in a short period of time contact your veterinarian for a laboratory diagnosis.

Frequently Asked Questions:

- **How much will my rabbit eat?**
  This depends on how big your bunny is. You can estimate that your rabbit will eat about 2% of its body weight. This means that a small breed rabbit at 2 lbs of body weight will eat about 0.75 ounces but a larger breed rabbit at 10 lbs of body weight will eat about 3 ounces per day.
- **Do I need to feed anything besides Famo Feeds' Bunny Bits?**
  Bunny Bits are designed as a complete nutritional source for rabbits. No additional hay or treats are needed. If you would like to supplement your rabbit's diet with treats, we recommend timothy hay and fresh veggies.
- **I just saw my rabbit eating her poop! Am I not feeding her enough?**
  Everything is fine! Because of the digestive tract of the rabbit, some feces contain a high level of nutrients that are needed by the rabbit. This excrement looks like a grape-like cluster (very different from the normal hard round pellets) and is full of B-vitamins and amino acids. Rabbits will eat this fecal material, called night feces, to obtain these nutrients. Consumption of night feces is totally normal and is called coprophagy. This behavior is also seen in other species such as horses.
- **What websites would you recommend for someone starting out?**
  https://www.arba.net/
  http://www.iasrba.com/
  http://msrba.club/
  http://www.debmark.com/rabbits/basics.htm

Housing:

- Rabbits are commonly housed in hutches with wire mesh sides and a hardware cloth floor. Hutches can be as simple as all wire sides to more decorative housing with wooden features.

- Hutches provide adequate ventilation and are easy to clean.
- Any practical size mesh can be used for tops and sides; floor mesh should be 1/2 inch for small breeds and 5/8 inch for larger breeds.
- Hutches can be purchased from suppliers or they can easily be built from galvanized wire mesh.
- Aim for 1 square foot of floor space per pound of body weight. Cage height should be 1.5 – 2 feet.
- Ideally, rabbits should be housed indoors. While they can successfully be raised outside they are more likely to become stressed. Rabbits have been known to have heart attacks and perish due to the simple sight of a predator.
- Nest boxes should be provided for doe seclusion and to protect the litter from drafts
- The nest box should be 12 x 12 x 24 in, with one side cut down to 6 in for ease of entry.
- During winter months, nest boxes should be well insulated and filled with straw.
- Be wary of using sawdust or shavings as these substrates can get lodged in the nostrils of the kits causing asphyxia.

Feeding:

- Metal feeders attached to the outside of cages are most common and allow for easier and faster refilling.
- Because rabbits chew on wood, a metal container is a better choice.
- Water can be provided in crocks but must be constantly cleaned and checked for water. Self-watering systems are more efficient and sanitary.
- Always feed a good quality rabbit pellet. Good quality timothy hay may be supplemented as well. *Famo Feeds' Bunny Bits are formulated as a complete feed so supplemental hay is not needed.*
- Fresh veggies and fruits can be given to rabbits as treats but avoid beans and rhubarb.

Breeding & Kindling:

- If you decide to breed make sure you have adequate room for the kits to be separated after weaning. Rabbits will breed to their littermates if left cohabitated after weaning.
- As always, breed from good stock. Breeding aggressive rabbits is not recommended.
- Small breeds will mature faster than larger ones therefore can be bred at a younger age (4 months compared to 9 – 12 for large breeds).

  - The estrus cycle is 16 – 18 days with 2 infertile days at the beginning and end of the cycle. At these times she will refuse the buck.
  - Rabbits are induced ovulators meaning that ovulation occurs only after mating.
  - Always bring the doe to the buck's cage. If they do not readily breed then remove her.
- Rabbits can show false pregnancies so rebreeding 17 days after last breeding is recommended.
- Keep rabbits in proper body condition. Overweight animals are more likely to have unsuccessful matings and poor litter quality.
- The normal gestation period for a rabbit is 31 days.
- The doe will eat less 2 – 3 days before kindling. Place the nest box in the hutch on the 28th or 29th day to maintain its cleanliness.
- The doe will typically kindle at night and should not be disturbed. If she is not left alone she will destroy the kits.
- Does will normally pull hair from their bodies to create their nest. Do not be alarmed by this, it looks worse than it is.
- Weaning time is typically 8 weeks but some wean at 6. Remember that sexes need to be separated at this time.