

Spotlight on Agriculture

Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Rural Development • Directorate of Agricultural Research and Training • Private Bag 13184 • Windhoek

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Buying Feed Safely

BACKGROUND

Recently farmers were accused of using prohibited substances to feed their livestock. Feed distributors allegedly sold feeds and licks that were 'dumped' on the market. Animals died due to the incorrect use of feeds. The accusation was made that people were poisoned after eating meat from animals that were fed wrongly.



THE FARM FEED ACT

The Question arises:

How can I be sure that I feed my animals correctly and that I do not transgress the law?

The Act on Farm Feeds, Fertilisers, Agricultural and Stock Remedies (Act 36 of 1947) protects farmers and manufacturers alike. An 'animal feed' is any raw material, mixed feed, lick or concentrate for any animal (including pets, livestock, game).

All these substances must be registered in Namibia before they may be sold. Registered feeds have a **N-FF number** on the label. This proves that the Registrar checked the feed and thus that the composition and ingredients meet all legal requirements and that it is safe for use if fed according to the instructions.

IMPORTANT

- Any feed offered for sale must be registered and is identified by the **N-FF** number.
- Feeds that do not display a N-FF number are illegal products and may contain prohibited substances. **It is an offence to use such a feed.**
- Feeds registered in South Africa are **not** automatically registered in Namibia. If someone intends to import feeds they first have to register these products.
- Registered feeds are free of prohibited substances. The Registrar regularly tests feeds to ensure adherence to the law. Certain medicines and **carcass by-products are prohibited**. It is an offence to include these products in feeds.
- **The Registrar is there for your protection.** Any irregularities regarding feeds, fertilisers or remedies should be reported and the necessary action will be taken.
- If animals die and if the feed is suspected to have caused the problem, contact the Registrar, a veterinarian **and** the feed supplier. They will collect samples and investigate the matter properly.
- **Report unregistered feeds to the addresses as indicated at the bottom of page 2!**

REMEMBER


*Mistakes do happen. If found at fault,
Feed Manufacturers will compensate for livestock losses.*

UTL = Understanding The Label

Note that the label gives a summary of important product information. Adhere strictly to feeding and mixing instructions to enjoy the protection of the law. If the client does not adhere to the instructions the manufacturer is protected.

Name of the product.

Is this a lick, a feed or a concentrate? For which animal?
The **Class** informs you about the type of product and the animal it is intended for.



SMALLSTOCK LICK

Class: Protein-Phosphate-Supplement for Sheep
Reg. No. **N-FF 1234** (Act 36 of 1947)

The Agricultural Laboratory verifies the **chemical composition**. Action is taken against a manufacturer if the two do not match.

Quality is Important!

N-FF numbers show

- Feed is registered
- Feed is legal
- Safe to use
- No prohibited substances included
- Meets international standards
- Quality is monitored

COMPOSITION		
Protein (min)	g/kg	210
Urea (max)	g/kg	45
Protein ex NPN (max)	%	61.5
Moisture (max)	g/kg	120
Crude Fibre (max)	g/kg	50
Fat (min)	g/kg	25
Ca (max)	g/kg	16
P (min)	g/kg	8
Recommended Daily Intake (g)	Sheep	250 - 400

Mass 50 kg

The Agricultural Laboratory verifies the **chemical composition**. Action is taken against a manufacturer if the two do not match.

Quality is Important!

How, when and why should I use the feed? Sometimes mixing instructions are mentioned here.

SMALLSTOCK LICK should be provided to sheep during the dry season. Provide ad lib to adult sheep and goats. No further mixing required.

WARNING:

This feed contains NPN-sources and must be used strictly according to instructions. Registered medicines may be included (see additional bag label).

- 1) Vinegar is an effective remedy against NPN poisoning. Mix with equal amount of water. Dose: Half a bottle per calf or large sheep or 2 to 4 bottles per head of cattle (1 bottle = 750 ml)
- 2) Protect this farm feed against rain. NPN is soluble and animals drinking such a solution could be poisoned.
- 3) Do not feed this farm feed indiscriminately with other NPN containing farm feeds. Consult an animal scientist

Animal licks

- 4) This is a supplement and not a feed. Sufficient grazing and/or roughage must be available at all times.
- 5) Keep the lick troughs filled and prevent gluttonous eating by hungry animals. A constant daily intake can help to prevent poisoning.
- 6) Before feeding a NPN containing lick, feed an ordinary salt/phosphate lick for at least 7 days.

You should get what you pay for. You are welcome to re-weigh bags **before** opening them.

This section displays warnings and mixing instructions.

Read and follow carefully!

NPN (like Urea) may be toxic.

Medicine Warnings are indicated on separate labels.

Feed & Co

Company Reg. No.: 01/00
P O Box 123, Windhoek
Tel 061-12345

Batch Number: 22032001ABC

The feed manufacturer is **responsible** for the quality of the product. If a client is uncertain about any declaration on the label, you are welcome to **contact him**. He is registered, and can thus be traced, should a **claim** arise against him.

A code or a batch number shows when the product was manufactured. If any problem occurs with feed, **report the batch number** and keep a sample of that batch. The batch number is the most important indicator for traceability.



If you need more information or assistance, please contact:

Mrs N Haindongo, Registrar	Tel 061-208 7469
Mr J Izaaks, Law Enforcement	Tel 061-208 7473
Mr H von Seydlitz, Technical Adviser	Tel 061-208 7070

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