



FEED INDUCTION PROTOCOL

SHEEP CUBES & CATTLE CUBES

Goal:

Sheep Cubes and Cattle Cubes are high-grain rations designed to provide quality energy, protein, vitamins and minerals to stock in order to achieve production goals. They are complete feeds which must be used in conjunction with quality pasture, forage or roughage. Due to the high grain content, Sheep Cubes and Cattle Cubes must be introduced using a careful induction period to ensure animals are conditioned to their new diet, and reduce the incidence of acidosis.

Preparation:

- Animals should be up-to date with all appropriate vaccinations and drenches.
- Animals should be drafted into appropriate mob sizes with similar body weight ranges.
- Design feeding system and pens to allow adequate space and access to feeders and water.

Example 7-day Induction Guide:

Both Sheep Cubes and Cattle Cubes must be introduced gradually using quality cereal, legume or pasture hay as a fibre source. Roughage is an essential part of ruminant diets and must be provided to promote saliva production, rumination and reduce acidosis risk. Ensure fresh, clean water is available at all times. Remove any stale or damp feed each day.

This guide is an example for how to introduce animals onto feed, and increasing the cubes gradually over time significantly reduces the chance of acidosis and allows the rumen to adapt.

Target recommended feeding rate is 2-2.5% live weight

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8+
Ad lib quality hay	Ad lib quality hay	Ad lib quality hay	Ad lib quality hay	Ad lib quality hay	Ad lib quality hay	Ad lib quality hay	Ad lib quality hay OR straw
0.25% live weight/head Sheep or Cattle Cubes	0.5% live weight/head Sheep or Cattle Cubes	0.75% live weight/head Sheep or Cattle Cubes	1% live weight/head Sheep or Cattle Cubes	1.25% live weight/head Sheep or Cattle Cubes	1.5% live weight/head Sheep or Cattle Cubes	2% live weight/head Sheep or Cattle Cubes	2-2.5% live weight/head Sheep or Cattle Cubes

Hungry/Drought Affected Stock

Sheep Cubes and Cattle Cubes must not be offered to hungry or drought affected stock. If stock are coming off limited and very poor-quality pasture, **allow access to ad-lib quality hay for minimum 24-48 hours** prior to introducing cubes, to provide gut fill and stimulate rumen function.

Interrupted Supply

If supply of Sheep Cubes or Cattle Cubes is interrupted at any point during or after induction, for a period of 24 hours or more, provide hay for 24 hours and then restart the induction protocol to avoid gastric upsets.

CAUTION

The introduction of high grain pellets to livestock requires a well-managed induction phase to minimise the risk of gastrointestinal upsets. Please speak to your animal nutritionist or contact us for more information. **The information in this document is a guide intended for our customers and advice may vary depending on individual circumstances.**