



How to read a feed tag?

As livestock and pet owners, we spend a lot of time in stores reading feed tags. The feed tag contains important information for you and your animals. From having a few laying hens in the back yard, to show pigs, or even a large dairy operation, people read feed tags to pick the right products to meet overall objectives of each type of livestock.

No matter what type of animal feed you are purchasing, it must have a feed tag associated with it. Sometimes the feed tag is printed on the bag itself, but most of Kalmbach's tags are sewn to the bottom of the bag. Even if you buy your feed in bulk, a printed feed tag accompanies the feed.

What is the purpose of the feed tag?

A feed tag helps the purchaser select a product to meet the needs of their animals. It also instructs the purchaser how to use the product effectively to obtain the best results. Additionally, it puts all products on a level playing field....comparing apples to apples and not oranges to apples. This means that Company A's guarantee of Crude Protein is defined or measured the same as Company B's guarantee of Crude Protein.

What information is on a feed tag?

1. Product Name.
2. Purpose of feed product: type (complete, supplement, premix, etc.) species, class, medication reason, and other information about how to use the product safely and effectively.
3. Levels of essential nutrients in the product (Guaranteed Analysis).
4. Ingredients in the product.
5. Feeding directions.
6. Warnings and cautions of the product (example: withdrawal time of medication).
7. Person or firm responsible for the feed (they must be registered within the state of sale).
8. Net weight of package.

(Example 1 will show this information on a Kalmbach Feeds tag.)



How to read a feed tag?

What does the information on a feed tag mean to me or my animal?

1. *The Product Name*

The product name must be appropriate for the feed's intended use and may not be misleading in any way. An example is that there will be several 12% Crude Protein feeds being sold in plain white bags in the market place, but if you are looking for a 12% sheep feed, then make sure the product is called 12% Sheep Feed and not 12% Goat Feed. There are also Branded Names, such as Kalm 'n Ez® that is shown in Example 2. Also, there are products called All-Stock feeds, which means this product can technically be fed to all species and will most likely contain no added copper that could harm sheep.

2. *The product purpose statement*

The purpose statement provides you with information for specific species and animal classes for which the feed is intended. This is really important in medicated feeds because it provides the FDA approved use of that medicated feed. Example 1 has a perfect example of why the purpose statement is important: "a swine starter feed formulated for control of swine dysentery...". Further detail in the tag also states a 42-day withdrawal of this feed. You would not want to feed this diet to a finisher pig because of the withdrawal period.

3. *Guaranteed Analysis*

Guarantees are required for all feed products. Individual guarantees are set by AAFCO* for each species and type of product (a premix could require different information than a complete feed). Other nutrients can be listed as a guarantee by the manufacturer. Crude Protein, Crude Fat, amino acids, vitamins, and macrominerals (Phosphorus, Magnesium, Potassium, and Sodium), microminerals (Zinc, Manganese, and Selenium) are usually guaranteed by a minimum because certain levels of these nutrients are important to different species, classes, or age of animals. For example, a young growing chick requires more protein for muscle deposition versus a mature laying hen that has reached her peak weight and body size.

Crude Fiber is usually guaranteed as a maximum amount. This is because high fiber ingredients can be cheaper compared to lower fiber ingredients and can therefore be used to maintain lower feed costs.

Copper is a micromineral that in most cases is labeled as a minimum guarantee, but because sheep have a low tolerance of copper, a minimum and maximum are required on sheep and goat tags (AAFCO). Additionally, if copper is not added to an all-stock, sheep, or goat feed then copper might not be guaranteed. If this is the case, this note will be added to the tag: "No added copper."



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Calcium and Salt are required to be guaranteed in a range (minimum to maximum) to ensure safe and adequate levels for all animals. Another item that may be listed in the guaranteed analysis includes non-protein nitrogen (urea). This is expressed under the Crude Protein minimum and will read similar to “Includes not more than X% equivalent crude protein from non-protein nitrogen”.

Manufacturers must list the required nutrients by AAFCO for each species and/or class and/or type of product. Many may list other nutrients as well, but those must be measurable through an approved laboratory method.

4. *Ingredients in the product*

Ingredients are either listed individually or as collective terms. Individual ingredients are grouped by collective terms defined by AAFCO. Collective terms include Animal Protein Products, Forage Products, Grain Products, Plant Protein Products, Processed Grain By-Products, and Roughage Products.

5. *Feeding directions*

Feeding directions are crucial in providing the proper nutrients to your animals on a daily basis. Examples 1, 2, and 3 all have a series of different types of directions. For instance, in example 1 the feeding directions are for the initial seven days post-weaning. In Example 2, feeding rates are provided by bodyweight ranges and then by exercise amount. This is to provide the optimal, but not excessive levels of nutrients. Example 3 is a premix. The premix directions give you mixing directions for every type or stage of poultry production. It is crucial to mix ingredients per the instructions for the specific species and class of animal to ensure overall success and well being of your animals.

6. *Warnings and cautions of the product (example; withdrawal of medication)*

Warning and/or caution statements are critical to read and understand. Several warnings are associated with withdrawal periods of different medications. Caution statements are also required by the FDA when using specific medications and/or levels in feeds. These caution and warning statements are crucial for ensuring proper well being of your animals and should not be taken lightly.

7. *Person or firm responsible for the feed (they must be registered within the state of sale)*

The firm on the tag is not always the manufacturer of the product. A statement such as “Manufactured for” versus “Manufactured by” will be on the tag. If you have issues, the firm listed on the tag is legally responsible.

8. *Net weight of package*

This tells you the exact weight of the product you are purchasing.



How to read a feed tag?

In summary, Kalmbach Feeds stresses the importance of taking time to read and understand your tags in order to be fully aware of the feed you are giving your livestock and pets. If you have any further questions about how to better understand your feed tags or if you would like to learn more, please contact your local Kalmbach Feeds representative today.

References:

AAFCO 2013 Official Publication.

Noel, R. J. and S. Senesac. 2003. Non-pet food label and design format guide. Association of American Feed Control Officials Publication.

Example 1 – Medicated Feed



2099MEC
KALMBACH
TARGET WEAN FIVE+
S.E.W. FORMULA ONE

Medicated

A complete swine starter feed formulated for control of swine dysentery (vibronic dysentery, bloody scours or hemorrhagic dysentery); control of bacterial swine enteritis (salmonellosis or necrotic enteritis caused by *Salmonella choleraesuis*); for increased rate of weight gain and improved feed efficiency.

Active Drug Ingredients	
Carbadox.....	50 g/ton
Guaranteed Analysis	
Crude Protein (Min.).....	23.0%
Lysine (Min.).....	1.8%
Crude Fat (Min.).....	5.0%
Crude Fiber (Max.).....	2%
Calcium (Ca) (Min.).....	0.80%
Calcium (Ca) (Max.).....	0.95%
Phosphorus (P) (Min.).....	0.7%
Salt (NaCl) (Min.).....	1.25%
Salt (NaCl) (Max.).....	1.75%
Selenium (Se) (Min.).....	0.3 ppm
Zinc (Zn) (Min.).....	2,500 ppm

Ingredients
 Feeding Oatmeal, Dried Whey, Plant Protein Products, Dried Skim Milk, Spray Dried Animal Plasma, Grain Products, Lactose, Fish Meal, Animal and Vegetable Fat, Dicalcium Phosphate, Monocalcium Phosphate, Calcium Carbonate, dl-Methionine, L-Lysine, Choline Chloride, Vitamin A Supplement, Vitamin E Supplement, Artificial Sweetener and Flavor, D-Activated Animal Sterol (Source of Vitamin D-3), Niacin, Vitamin B-12 Supplement, Riboflavin, d-Calcium Pantothenate, Ethoxyquin (a preservative), Menadione Sodium Bisulfite Complex (Source of Vitamin K Activity), d-Biotin, Folic Acid, Bacillus licheniformis, Bacillus subtilis, Thiamine Mononitrate, Pyridoxine Hydrochloride, Zinc Sulfate, Zinc Oxide, Ferrous Sulfate, Manganese Sulfate, Copper Sulfate, Ethylenediamine Dithiodide, Cobalt Sulfate, Selenium Yeast, and Sodium Selenite.

WARNING
 Do not feed to swine within 42 days before slaughter. Not for use in pregnant swine or swine intended for breeding purposes

CAUTION: Do not use in feeds containing bentonite.

Feeding Directions
 Feed during the initial 7 days after weaning to pigs that weigh 5 to 10 lbs. at 10 to 16 days of age.



Manufactured by
KALMBACH FEEDS, INC.
 UPPER SANDUSKY, OHIO 43351
 Net Weight - 50 LBS. (22.7 Kg.) - BULK - Shown on Invoice

311320-277-1

M. Net weight of package.

* **AAFCO** = Association of American Feed Control Officials. This organization sets standard guidelines for all feed companies to follow for labeling products.

A. Our lot number - important tracking information.

B. Our product code – use for ordering.

C. Name or Title of Product.

D. Indicates this product is a medicated feed.

E. Purpose statement: species, class, medication reason, etc.

F. Type and amount of medication.

G. Nutritional Guarantees – minimum and/or maximum values that the product must meet if tested by approved laboratory methods.

H. Ingredients in the feed. Can be listed as individual ingredients or collective terms for a group of AAFCO* approved ingredients.

I. **Warning and caution statements** are required by the FDA. Withdrawal or unsafe feeding instructions are listed here. *This feed has a 42 day withdrawal.*

J. Recommended feeding directions for this product.

K. Manufacturer responsible for feed.

L. KFI code for internal use only.

Example 2 – Nonmedicated Feed



TRIBUTE[®]
EQUINE NUTRITION
920P
TRIBUTE KALM 'N EZ[®] PELLETTED
A pelleted low-starch feed formulated for all classes of mature horses.

Guaranteed Analysis	
Crude Protein (Min.)	14%
Crude Fat (Min.)	8%
Crude Fiber (Max.)	20%
Calcium (Ca) (Min.)	0.8%
Calcium (Ca) (Max.)	1.3%
Phosphorus (P) (Min.)	0.6%
Lysine (Min.)	0.75%
Methionine (Min.)	0.22%
Methionine + Cystine (Min.)	0.5%
Threonine (Min.)	0.5%
Copper (Cu) (Min.)	.65 ppm
Zinc (Zn) (Min.)	200 ppm
Selenium (Se) (Min.)	0.6 ppm
Vitamin A (Min.)	5,500 IU/lb
Vitamin D (Min.)	500 IU/lb
Vitamin E (Min.)	200 IU/lb
Biotin (Min.)	0.7 mg/lb
Omega 6 Fatty Acids (Min.)	2.8%
Omega 3 Fatty Acids (Min.)	0.3%

Ingredients
Best Pulp, Soybean Hulls, Wheat Middlings, Ground Extruded Whole Soybeans, Dehulled Soybean Meal, Soybean Oil, Molasses Products, Calcium Carbonate, Dicalcium Phosphate, Monocalcium Phosphate, Salt, Dry Active Saccharomyces Cerevisiae, Lignin Sulfonate, Calcium Sulfate, Vitamin A Supplement, Vitamin E Supplement, Vitamin D Supplement, Magnesium Oxide, DL-Methionine, Biotin Supplement, Folic Acid, Vitamin B12 Supplement, Calcium Pantothenate, Niacin, Riboflavin, Thiamine Mononitrate, Menadiolone Sodium Bisulfite Complex (Source of Vitamin K), Zinc Sulfate, Ferrous Sulfate, Manganese Sulfate, Copper Sulfate, Ethylenediamine Dihydrochloride, Cobalt Sulfate, Zinc Proteinate, Manganese Proteinate, Copper Proteinate, Sodium Selenite, Pyridoxine Hydrochloride, Propionic Acid, Brewers Dried Yeast, Dried Saccharomyces cerevisiae Fermentation Solubles, Hydrated Sodium Calcium Aluminosilicate, Silicon Dioxide, Zinc Amino Acid Complex, Copper Amino Acid Complex, Manganese Amino Acid Complex, Cobalt Glucoheptonate, Natural and Artificial Flavors, and Selenium Yeast.

Feeding Directions

Mature Weight 660-880 lbs		
Training Level	Lbs. Kalm 'N EZ [®]	Lbs. Hay
Idle	3 - 5	6 - 10
Light Training	5 - 7	8 - 12
Moderate Training	6 - 8	8 - 12
Intense Training	8 - 10	9 - 14
Mature Weight 880-1,100 lbs		
Training Level	Lbs. Kalm 'N EZ [®]	Lbs. Hay
Idle	4 - 8	9 - 14
Light Training	6 - 10	10 - 16
Moderate Training	8 - 12	10 - 16
Intense Training	10 - 14	12 - 18
Mature Weight 1,100-1,320 lbs		
Training Level	Lbs. Kalm 'N EZ [®]	Lbs. Hay
Idle	5 - 9	12 - 18
Light Training	7 - 11	14 - 20
Moderate Training	10 - 14	14 - 20
Intense Training	12 - 16	16 - 22

The amount of Tribute Kalm 'N EZ[®] fed can be adjusted depending on individual horse body condition and the amount and quality of forage being fed. Attempt to feed no more than 5 lbs. of any concentrate per feeding. Tribute Kalm 'N EZ[®] can be used as a complete feed when hay is in short supply or unavailable. Feed up to 20 lbs. per day, but divide in to at least 4 feedings per day. Tribute Kalm 'N EZ[®] should be part of a balanced and well-managed feeding program that includes the following:

- Plenty of clean, fresh water at all times (with the exception of overheated or overworked horses that need to be rehydrated gradually)
- A minimum of 1% of bodyweight in hay or pasture equivalent daily
- Free-choice salt and mineral.
- Make all feeding changes gradually over a period of 1 to 2 weeks.
- Prevention and treatment of parasites and dental problems.
- Consultation with a qualified veterinarian if problems or questions arise.



Manufactured by
KALMBACH FEEDS, INC.
UPPER SANDUSKY, OHIO 43351
Net Weight - 50 LBS. (22.7 Kg) - BULK - Shown on Invoice

319170-293



A. Purpose statement: does not indicate any medication, thus there is no medication statement or amount on this tag. No warning or caution statements needed.

B. It is important that you know specific details about the animals you are feeding to make the correct feeding decisions. Species, class, weight, age, breed, exercise amount, health, and environment can impact the nutritional needs of animals.

C. Universal barcode for resale.

Example 3 – Premix

Front of Tag

117
KALMBACH
20% ALL NATURAL
POULTRY PREMIX
100

ALL NATURAL, NO ANTIBIOTICS ADDED
 NO ANIMAL BY-PRODUCTS

THE HEALTHY CHOICE

A Premix Formulated For the Manufacture of Poultry Feeds

Guaranteed Analysis

Crude Protein (Min.)	20%
Lysine (Min.)	1.00%
Methionine (Min.)	0.90%
Crude Fat (Min.)	4.0%
Crude Fiber (Max.)	5.0%
Calcium (Ca) (Min.)	5.0%
Calcium (Ca) (Max.)	10.0%
Phosphorus (P) (Min.)	2.9%
Salt (NaCl) (Min.)	5.5%
Salt (NaCl) (Max.)	7.5%

Ingredients:
 Processed Grain By-Products, Whole Flaxseed, Monocalcium Phosphate, Dicalcium Phosphate, Calcium Carbonate, Salt, Canola Oil, Vegetable Oil, Sodium Sesquicarbonate, Methionine Supplement, Lysine Supplement, Potassium Sulfate, Magnesium Sulfate, Choline Chloride, Vitamin A Supplement, Vitamin E Supplement, Vitamin D Supplement, Niacin, Vitamin B-12 Supplement, Riboflavin, d-Calcium Pantothenate, Menadione Dimethylpyrimidinol Bisulfite (source of Vitamin K activity), Biotin Supplement, Folic Acid, Thiamine Mononitrate, Pyridoxine Hydrochloride, Zinc Sulfate, Ferrous Sulfate, Manganese Sulfate, Copper Sulfate, Ethylenediamine Dihydrochloride, Cobalt Sulfate, Selenium Yeast, and Sodium Selenite.

Feeding Directions:
 See the back of this label for a complete list of mixing directions by species and class. Consult your Kalmbach Feeds Sales Representative for additional information.

Manufactured by
KALMBACH FEEDS, INC.
 UPPER SANDUSKY, OHIO 43351

Net Weight - 50 LBS. (22.7 Kg.) - BULK - Shown on Invoice 217121-275

A. Remember a premix is not a complete feed and must be properly mixed with other ingredients to safely feed to your animals.

B. "All-Natural" refers to products that do not contain medications or animal protein products (such as meat and bone meal).

C. Sometimes there is too much information to fit on one side of the tag and we refer you to the back. If the mixing directions do not contain the ingredients you have available, Kalmbach Feeds nutritionists will be happy to formulate a custom diet upon request.

Back of Tag

KFI 117 CUSTOM POULTRY FEED MIXING CHART										
Ingredients	20% Chick Starter		18% Chick Starter-Gr		16% Chick Grower		18% Layer		17% Layer	
Kalmbach Poultry Premix #117	100		100		100		100		100	
Com (8.5%)	1300		1320		1420		1225		1275	
48.5% SBM	560		460		360		500		450	
Feeding Lime	20		20		20		100		100	
Coarse Layer Lime	0		0		0		75		75	
Fish Meal	0		0		0		0		0	
Vegetable Oil (2)	0		0		0		0		0	
Oats	0		0		0		0		0	
Wheat Midds (1)	0		100		100		0		0	
Medication -Example (3)	Monensin 90 g		Monensin 90 g		Monensin 90 g		-		-	
TOTAL	2000		2000		2000		2000		2000	
Nutrients	C	G	C	G	C	G	C	G	C	G
Protein	20.6	20	18.6	18	16.6	16	18.4	18	17.4	17
Fat	3	2.6	3.1	2.5	3.2	2.5	2.74	2	2.8	2
Fiber	2.7	4	2.9	4	2.6	4	2.4	4	2.4	4
Ingredients	16% Layer		15% Layer		26% Turkey Starter		20% Turkey Gr.-Fin.		20% Pheasant Grower	
Kalmbach Poultry Premix #117	100		100		100		100		100	
Com (8.5%)	1325		1375		950		1260		875	
48.5% SBM	400		350		735		600		505	
Feeding Lime	100		100		20		20		20	
Coarse Layer Lime	75		75		0		0		0	
Fish Meal	0		0		125		0		0	
Vegetable Oil (2)	0		0		20		20		0	
Oats	0		0		0		0		200	
Wheat Midds (1)	0		0		50		0		300	
Medication -Example (3)	-		-		Monensin 75 g		BMD 50 g		BMD 50 g	
TOTAL	2000		2000		2000		2000		2000	
Nutrients	C	G	C	G	C	G	C	G	C	G
Protein	16.4	16	16.4	16	26.8	26	20.8	20	20.5	20
Fat	2.9	2	3	2	4	3	4	3	3.1	2.5
Fiber	2.4	4	4	4	3	5	2.6	4	4.4	6

C: Calculated from assumed nutrient levels in ingredients

G: Guarantee on tag

D. This specific premix has mixing directions for all classes of poultry. It is important to note that all premixes are not necessarily designed for all classes of a species group. If you need help choosing the right premix or diet to make please contact your Kalmbach Feeds sales representative or one of our nutritionists.