

The following formula has been utilized with considerable success in raising orphaned rabbits, and it is relatively inexpensive and easy to prepare.

#### MATERIALS NEEDED

**Dropper or 1 cc syringe** (for kits under 2 weeks of age)

**Bottle with a nipple** (for kits 2 weeks and older)

**Thermometer**

**Small towel or cloth**

**Milk replacement**

#### MILK REPLACEMENT FORMULA FOR

#### RABBITS

2 cups of 2% milk (low fat milk)

2 egg yolks

2 Tbsp powdered milk

2 Tbsp. corn syrup

1 tsp. bone meal

#### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Mix the ingredients thoroughly and place this formula in the refrigerator.
2. Take out only a small portion, approximately  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup of the formula at the time, for each feeding.
3. Using the thermometer and a heating source, heat the milk replacement to  $32^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $\sim 90^{\circ}\text{F}$ ).

**NB: DO NOT** feed this milk at a higher temperature, because you will burn the kit(s) fragile digestive system!



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

## RABBIT NUTRITION



For more information contact the Poultry Extension Officer in your region

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Department of Veterinary and Livestock Services

# RABBIT NUTRITION

Rabbits are **herbivores** (plant eaters) and are considered grazers, in that they eat continuously.

## Rabbit feeds

### Hay

- Daily basal diet; 80% hay, 15% fresh vegetables and 5% pellets.
- Feed unlimited, high-quality grass hay.
- Grass hay is high in fibre, which is critical in maintaining a rabbit's healthy digestive tract.

### Rabbit Pellets

Age	Amount of feed per rabbit per day
Pregnant	187g
Lactating	<i>Ad-libitum</i>
Weaners	<i>Ad-libitum</i>
6 weeks	50g
3-4months	100g
4-5months	120g
Adults 3.6kg	100g
Pregnant Doe 3.6kg	150g
Adults	120-140g
Bucks (not mating)	75g



Figure1; Rabbits eating hay



Figure2; Rabbit pellets



Figure 3; Eragrostis and Panicum grass

## List of greens that rabbits eat in different quantities

Can be eaten	Can be eaten in small quantities	Cannot be eaten
<b>Grass</b> ; Panicum, Eragrostis, kikuyu	Signal grass	Lucerne (alfalfa)
<b>Fruits</b>	Apples, Pears and berries	Avocados
<b>Vegetables</b> ; beetroot leaves, spinach, carrot tops, broccoli	Cabbages	Lettuce
<b>Roots and tubers</b>	Sweet potatoes, potatoes and carrots	

## Water requirements

- Fresh water should be available 24 hours a day.
- Water should be changed every day and the bottle cleaned with dish soap once per week.

## Feeding orphan bunnies/kits



Figure 4; feeding bunnies