

Feeding and management of Breeding show chickens:

Breeding show chickens require specialized care to ensure they reach their full genetic potential in terms of feather quality, body mass, and overall health. Their nutritional needs differ significantly from laying chickens due to their unique physical demands. Below are key considerations for managing and feeding breeding show chickens.



1. Nutritional Focus

Show chickens, particularly those bred for competition, need a balanced diet that supports both their feather growth and muscle development. Their feed must be rich in essential nutrients but controlled to avoid overfeeding or underfeeding.

High Protein Levels: Feathers are about 85% protein, so a diet rich in high-quality protein (18-22%) is essential for promoting healthy feather growth.

Moderate Energy: While body mass is important, excessive energy in the diet can lead to overweight birds, which can negatively impact their mobility and reproduction. Energy levels should be carefully balanced. Thus the addition of crushed maize and sunflower (mixed fowl feed) should only be an additive and not the full feed. During cold days and winter months this component can be increased.

Vitamins and Minerals: Vitamins like biotin, and minerals like zinc and selenium, are crucial for feather quality and immune health. Thus the addition of a stress pack (like Carmino) can be implemented once a week.

Lower Calcium: Unlike layers, breeding show chickens don't need high calcium levels, which are necessary for egg production. Overfeeding calcium can cause kidney issues or eggs that are too hard for chicks to crack and hatch out of. On the other side, if eggs are laid with cracks or with a soft shell, one can add kulu grit or cacimax.

Cacimax – as indicated on bottle

Kulu grit - 1g per chicken on top of feed for 3 days



2. Feeding Program

Starter (0-8 weeks): Feed Alzu Broiler starter with high protein (22%) to promote initial growth and feather development.

Grower (8 weeks and on): Shift to a Alzu Broiler grower feed with moderate protein (18%) to support steady growth without excessive fat accumulation.

Conditioning Feed: As chickens approach show age, a conditioning feed (in this case still Alzu Broiler grower) with a balance of fats, proteins, and essential vitamins to ensure they look their best.

Breeding hens: In the beginning of the breeding season, some Alzu Layer 95 can be given as an additive to stimulate breeding and ensure good egg quality. This is not the full diet, the main component is still broiler grower.

Greenery should also be added to their diet, for example:

Cut Grass: Freshly cut, untreated grass is a good source of roughage. Avoid grass treated with pesticides or herbicides.

Clover: Rich in protein, clover can be a great supplement to a chicken's diet.

Alfalfa (lucerne): High in protein, alfalfa is a nutritious green for chickens, especially in dried pellet form.

Lettuce (Except Iceberg): Leafy greens like romaine and spinach are packed with nutrients.

Turnip or Beet Greens: The leafy tops of these root vegetables are also suitable for chickens and provide good nutrition.

Kale: High in vitamins and minerals, kale is another excellent green option.

Nasturtium Leaves and Flowers: Not only do chickens enjoy them, but they also have natural antibiotic properties.

These greens should be provided in moderation alongside their regular feed to avoid digestive issues.

ALZU BROILER STARTER

<u>PRODUCT CODE:</u>	BA220	
	<u>COMPOSITION</u>	
Protein	220g/Kg	Min
Moisture	120g/Kg	Max
Lysine	11g/Kg	Min
Methionine	4g/Kg	Min
Fat	25g/Kg	Min
Fibre	50g/Kg	Max
Calcium	8g/Kg	Min
Calcium	12g/Kg	Max
Phosphorus	7g/Kg	Min

ALZU BROILER GROWER

<u>PRODUCT CODE:</u>	BG200	
	<u>COMPOSITION</u>	
Protein	180g/Kg	Min
Moisture	120g/Kg	Max
Lysine	9.5g/Kg	Min
Methionine	4g/Kg	Min
Fat	25g/Kg	Min
Fibre	50g/Kg	Max
Calcium	7g/Kg	Min
Calcium	12g/Kg	Max
Phosphorus	6g/Kg	Min

ALZU LAYER 95

<u>PRODUCT CODE:</u>	LM95	
	<u>COMPOSITION</u>	
Protein	160g/Kg	Min
Moisture	120g/Kg	Max
Lysine	9g/Kg	Min
Methionine	3.6g/Kg	Min
Fat	25g/Kg	Min
Fibre	70g/Kg	Max
Calcium	6g/Kg	Min
Calcium	12g/Kg	Max
Phosphorus	5g/Kg	Min

3. Management Practices

Proper management is crucial to ensure birds maintain their condition.

Housing: Keep birds in clean, spacious coops with plenty of ventilation. Avoid overcrowding to prevent feather damage from rubbing or pecking.

Biosecurity: Regularly clean and disinfect coops, feeders, and drinkers. Limit contact with other birds to prevent disease.

Handling: Minimize rough handling to protect feathers. When handling is necessary, be gentle and supportive of their body and wings.

Feather Care: Birds should be checked regularly for mites and lice, which can damage feathers, as well as, cause anemia. Mite/lice parasites feed on the blood of chickens and can cause weak chickens and possible death.

Karba dust is one of the best products to use for lice and mites, the housing should also be disinfected with

Deworming: Chickens should be dewormed at least twice a year, but preferably four times. Piperazine is easy to administer in the water of the chickens.

Heatstress: Heatstress can be managed by ensuring access to cool water, as well as, natural additive products like Oregro-HS

