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Hello and welcome to our first edition of Clarkes Corner for 2023! We hope you had a great break over the Christmas and New Year holidays!

As we all know, it has been a very dry summer for most of Southland and Otago which has kept our dairy feed manufacturing at a steady pace throughout December, January and February!

With Autumn harvest now underway, we will soon be very busy with our Mobile Seed Cleaning plant heading out onto the roads of Southland and Otago to dress and treat grain from our local arable growers, as well as treating local Certified Seed in store.

We also now have our famous Duck Tucker available in store for all you avid Duck Shooters! We have a range of products available for every budget, simply give us a call or come in store to find out more.

We hope you enjoy this edition and look forward to seeing you in-store soon!



DUCK TUCKER

Machine Cleaned 25Kg bags
BARLEY / WHEAT / PEAS



5 for \$115
or \$25 each (GST Inc)



TUX DOG BISCUITS



Autumn Dairy Feed

by Garry Clarke

With another dry start to the late Summer/early Autumn, demand has been steady to high for Dairy Feeds. A record high for grain contracts has held pricing firm (similar to pre Christmas). Commodities of PKE, DDG, CGM and Molasses have all levelled out and most have enough prior commitments to hopefully take advantage of competitive pricing for new forward contracts over one of the three upcoming Field Days during March.

Please contract Garry or Sue for advice on feeds/blends and secure the best pricing



To discuss feed options for your herd, give us a call today!

Garry- 027 453 4066 / Sue- 027 428 9900

Available at Clarkes:

- Palm Kernel
- Dairy Meals
- Dried Distillers Grain (DDG)
- Corn Gluten Meal/Pellets
- Dairy Pellets
- Soy Bean Hull Pellets
- Individualised Mixes
- Molasses

**We have all your
Dairy Feed needs!**

DUNSTAN BREED & GROW 20KG

DUNSTAN BREED & GROW IS A LOW-STARCH, HIGH-FIBRE PELLET FORMULATED FOR BROODMARES AND THE YOUNG GROWING HORSE.

- LOW IN STARCH
- HIGH IN FIBRE
- QUALITY PROTEIN INGREDIENTS
- ORGANIC MINERALS
- NATURAL VITAMIN E
- LIVE YEAST
- MANNAN OLIGOSACCHARIDE AND ALUMINOSILICATE CLAY



FEEDING YOUR CHICKENS

As with any animal, feeding a complete and balanced diet is essential for growing and maintaining healthy, happy birds that produce top quality eggs. Laying hens in particular should be fed a highly nutritious feed that contains the correct amount of vitamins and minerals that aid in egg production.

One of the most essential minerals needed by laying hens for egg production is calcium. Calcium carbonate makes up about 97% of the entire egg, so a diet that does not contain the correct amount of calcium may result in numerous egg abnormalities and/or ill health for the chicken.

Some signs your chicken may be deficient in calcium are:

- Eggs without a shell
- Thin or translucent shells
- Soft shells

These symptoms could also be related to other health abnormalities such as a bacterial infection or disease, or the hen could just simply be starting or ending her laying cycle. Calcium needs to be fed in balance with two other essential ingredients - phosphorus and vitamin D. Without a proper balance, the chicken will struggle to maintain health and may not benefit from any supplemented calcium which, in turn may cause her to go 'off the lay' and suffer from health issues related to calcium deficiency.

Problems can also arise if there is an excessive amount of calcium in the chicken's diet, which can include:

- Chalky deposits on egg shells
- Lumps or abnormal growths on the egg
- Increased thirst
- Sticky or wet droppings and soiled feathers around the vent

A correct mineral balance is easy to regulate with correct nutrition. Feeding a highly nutritious hen food alongside a calcium supplement, such as Oyster Shell Grit, will provide your hens with the correct nutrition for optimum egg health and egg production.

FEEDING FOR SUCCESS

With Opening Weekend just around the corner, we have a few helpful hints on how to correctly feed your duck pond to maximize your chances of successful hunting.

WHAT DO I FEED?

During the Autumn and Winter months the majority of food eaten by ducks are seeds, vegetation and grain if it is available. Ducks will very often head to stubble paddocks in large numbers to collect the waste grain that is leftover from harvesting. Grains provide a valuable source of energy that is needed during the colder months.

Feeding grain in wetlands can take advantage of the birds' desire for an easy meal, particularly when it is of preferred grain feeds. Most grain is suitable for duck feed and even floor sweepings, old dressings or any waste material from a feed and grain merchant will produce good results. If given a choice however, ducks prefer peas, barley and wheat in that order of preference.

FEEDING YOUR POND

Do not stalk the pond and shoot at birds that have arrived early or may be sitting during the day as this will only serve to scare any birds in the area, most of which may not return, regardless of continuous feeding. Hunting overcomes the urge to feed for any duck where large quantities of quality feed are available to eat.

When selecting a pond to feed it is important to make sure that the pond provides you with a good view of the sky and that you can hunt from under cover, if possible. This is important as ducks usually come right on dark and are very difficult to see. For this reason it is important to shoot incoming ducks rather than wait for them to land.

SHOOTING YOUR POND

Almost any hunting area can be fed with grain as long as the water is not too deep to prevent ducks reaching the feed on the bottom. The ideal depth for feed is from 2cm to around 30cm deep. Feed should be scattered widely around the edge of the pond or the hunting area to ensure that ducks have a good chance of locating the feed and have to work as little as possible.

Feeds can be scattered around the edge of the pond as well, this will let you know if birds have been using the area or not. It is often easy however to tell if birds have been feeding at the pond as the margins will be disturbed, vegetation chewed off and feathers may be scattered around as a result of contented ducks preening after feeding.

By far the best areas to feed are shallow ponds that provide some cover for hunting and allow a clear view of approaching birds on dusk or near dark. The pond should, ideally, be well away from disturbance to prevent scaring the ducks away or other people finding and hunting your pond. However, public wetlands can be fed successfully, particularly for the opening weekend or both morning and evening hunting.

Feeding well will often attract ducks to stay in areas that have sufficient cover or no disturbance right throughout the day and can also develop familiarity of the area with the birds, which enhances the chances of them returning once shooting starts on opening weekend. The amount of grain you feed will depend on the size of the area and the number of ducks you have hanging around. Usually half a bucket of grain every couple of days should be sufficient, however if you are not able to feed the area regularly and can only visit at weekends, one to two buckets of grain should be fed out to ensure that the ducks have enough feed during the week. It is a waste of time and money feeding ducks for half the week, only to have them leave once the food has run out.

A great alternative is to use an automatic feeding system which will be available from your local hunting supplies shop. Clarke's Seed & Feed have top quality Duck Tuckers, designed with these systems in mind, that will flow through feeders without blocking the opening.

Certified Autumn Cereal Seeds

Locally grown, NZ Certified Seed

Graham Winter Wheat

- High yields throughout New Zealand
- Robust against disease
- Produces big and heavy grain samples
 - Medium tall variety
- Low sprouting risk and early maturity



Reflection Winter Wheat

- Very high yield potential
- Short, moderate tillage
- Good disease tolerance
- Slow developing for early sowing
- Medium sized grain, moderate to low screenings



Surge Winter Barley

- A true Winter barley
- Requires early Autumn sowing and vernalisation
- Very tolerant of scald and leaf rust
- High yielding potential



Silhouette Spring Barley

- A high yielding feed Barley
- Stiff straw and excellent disease resistance
- Wide sowing window from late April through to October and is easy to manage
- Excellent resistance to leaf rust, net blotch and



SF AT77 Forage Barley

- A high yielding forage Barley
- Versatile (Graze / Silage)
- Ease of establishment, quick to harvest
 - Quality Feed
 - Multi Graze Option
 - Disease Tolerant



MOBILE SEED CLEANING

Our first seed lines are currently being processed, with locally grown Surge Barley and Reflection Wheat kicking off the New Season. Once complete we will be starting on the road servicing the cereal growers of Southland and Otago with our mobile seed cleaning plant.

With another busy run ahead of us, please advise us of your requirements as early as possible.

Please phone either Garry or the office to advise us of your requirements.

Garry - 027 453 4066

Office - 03 214 3104

HARVEST BEGINS

We have been busy receiving new season Barley and Wheat, with the first crops received into store in Mid January.

At the time of writing, the Autumn Barley and Wheat varieties are harvested with good quality and yields being achieved.