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Notes & Quotes

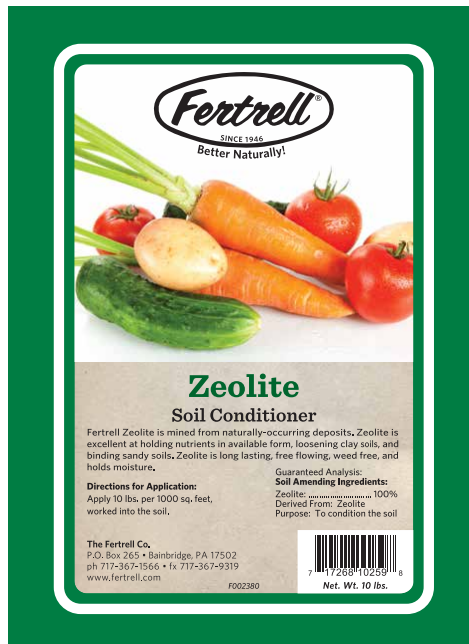
INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Product Feature

Zeolite - Zeolite's high CEC (Cation ration exchange capacity) allows for absorption of cations (Ca, K, N, Mg etc.) and hold them in plant-available form. Zeolite can hold up to 55% of its weight in water. Typically, where Zeolite has been applied, crops will require up to 35% less water.

Zeolite can loosen heavy clay soils and retain nutrients and moisture in light sandy soils. Zeolite helps prevent compaction, increases water/nutrient filtration, and increases aeration. Zeolite absorbs ammonia very well from manure applications and works well for odor control of ammonia if mixed with manure.

Uses: - addition to manure pits, addition to compost piles, direct application to fields, blended with fertilizers and use in potting mixes or gardens. Available in 10 lb. and 50 lb. bags.



March/April 2023

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Our Mission

Your trusted partner; creating superior products for healthier soil, plants and animals. Healing the earth and feeding the world
- *Better Naturally!*

Perfecting Pullet Management by Alyssa Walsh

The first 18 weeks of a chick's life is the most critical and will impact future production. Errors made during this time are difficult to overcome. During pullet development, their body is focusing on growing and building reserves for future laying. Low egg production and poor shell quality during lay can often be traced back to pullet development. Pullet management is essential for the success and profits of the future laying flock. The overall aim of pullet development is to reach a target body weight with high uniformity. Less than 85% uniformity will cause a decrease in egg production and peak production will be hard to maintain. Understanding developmental stages, maintaining brooder temperature, providing enough space, and providing fresh, balanced rations will help ensure the success of your future layer.



Understanding the different stages of development will help pinpoint when your hen had issues in her early life. Interrupted growth during any of these developmental phases will result in hens lacking the body reserves and organ function to sustain high production as adult layers.

Week 0-6: The organs of the digestive tract and immune system are developing. Stress at this age can have a lifelong impact on the digestion of feed and the absorption nutrients.

Week 6-12: This is the period of rapid growth

and when the pullet is building most of her adult structural components (muscle, bones, and feathers).

Week 12-18: Growth is beginning to slow while the reproductive tract matures and prepares for egg production. The skeleton is 95% developed by the end of the 13th week of life, and at this time, the skeleton size will not increase. Muscles continue to develop and fat cells begin to proliferate in preparation for sexual maturity. You want to avoid excessive body weight gain at this period because it can result in an excessive fat pad. Low body weight and stress can delay the onset of egg production.

Regulating brooder temperature is critical because a chick's body is not able to regulate its own temperature until day 14. Brooder temperature should be 95°F *at chick level* on day 1, then decreased by about 1°F daily, until reaching 75°F (or ambient temperatures) at 3 weeks. Chicks lose much of their body temperature through the skin of their legs, so feeling their legs will help gauge internal body temperature of the chick.

Providing enough feeder and waterer space allows for pullets to eat and drink with enough space and will help flock uniformity. A general rule of thumb for linear feeder and waterer space is 1 inch per chick, and increase to 2 inches per bird by week 2. After week 8, give 3-4 inches per growing pullet. Also, extra feed space is needed for the first week. Adding 1 feeder tray per 50 chicks in addition to their normal feeders. Do not allow trays to get empty (this will place great stress on birds and can reduce yolk sac absorption). Trays can be completely removed by 7-10 days. A lack of uniformity is likely a result of lack of feeder and waterer space.

Floor space is also important for development. Having adequate living space will help social development, decrease pecking, and increase comfort and performance. Giving 0.5 ft² per chick and increasing to 1 ft² per chick at 3 weeks

is required. From week 4 to week 17, 1.5 ft² per pullet is needed. This helps to spread out manure load and helps improve air quality.

Meeting nutrient requirements through a well-balanced, fresh feed is important for the health and development of pullets. The feed being fed, needs to align with the birds age and stage of development. Feeding a fresh, well-balanced chick starter, chick grower, and pullet developer will improve the health and growth for proper development.

Chick Starter: Most critical feed for any poultry. The very specific nutrient levels will establish the future of the chicken's productivity. The chick starter should be used from day one through ¼ of the development period. This time may vary based on each breed's genetic potential.

Chick Grower: Grower is lower in protein and energy to accommodate the increased amount of feed consumed. Chick grower is designed to ensure against the development of excess fat or rapid rate of gain. During this period of development, we want to allow the metabolism to stabilize with body size. Chick grower should be fed for the second quarter of the chicken development period.

Pullet Developer: Pullet developer is specifically designed for the correct development of replacement layers. This feed will minimize the amount of internal and external fat deposits that may lead to poor egg lay and poor fertility. This formula should be fed the third quarter of the bird's life. This should be fed from weeks 12-18 with high production birds.



A final, and equally as important management factor is providing fresh, clean water. Watering devices need to be clean and free from bacteria and algae. Water should be cool and no hotter than the pullets body temperature. Water regulates feed intake, so if they aren't drinking, they aren't eating.

In summary, understanding developmental stages, maintaining brooder temperature, providing enough space, and providing fresh, balanced rations helps prepare pullets for best performance as a layer. Observation is also key to success. Taking the time to watch pullets will help catch issues sooner. Walking the flock will help you spot minor problems before they become major problems, helps socialization, and improves nesting behaviors in layers. Overall, good pullet management will result in high performing, healthy layers.

BE CAREFUL! by Jeff Pennay

Here we are. Finishing up the rough winter weather and getting ready to turn the cows and heifers out to pasture. What should be focused on before doing this? There are ground conditions, quality of forage, and nutritional concerns for the animals themselves.

DON'T TRY TO RUSH THE SEASON!

I know that everyone is tired of feeding stored forages, and possibly even starting to run out. But there are real concerns to be considered. It is very important that the frost is out of the ground. You need to pay attention to how the cows will be able to manage the ground conditions and terrain. Things change over the winter. If you have a muddy sloppy mess out there, your cows can injure themselves. In addition to potential injury, allowing the cows to lay on cold wet ground will most likely increase your potential for high SCC and/or mastitis issues. That can cost you a tremendous amount of money. Either in outright expenses or loss of production.

You also need to have concern for your pasture itself. The grasses and legumes need an opportunity grow. Turning the cows out too soon can cause physical damage. If you destroy part of your pasture, you won't have it later in the season. All of the sudden you are short on pasture and feed for your cattle. This may be a good reason to set aside a pasture or old hay field as a sacrifice lot for early or late season grazing. A sacrifice paddock won't directly impact your total forage harvest for the current year. In other words, you won't have to feed forage that you were planning on using through the winter, thus putting you in the dilemma of making your forage last through the season. Running short on pasture can have a snowball effect on having adequate forage through the winter. In addition to this issue, if you are certified organic, you now have to make sure that you have fulfilled your dry matter source requirements. It's always something!

We're not done yet. You must make sure that you are providing the best possible pasture for your cows from a nutritional standpoint. Feeding frozen or even just heavily dewed pasture can cause additional issues. Bloat is never fun to deal with, but a common issue under these conditions. Make sure that you remember to increase the magnesium levels for your cows for the first 30 to 45 days to prevent bloat and grass tetany. You should really let your pasture grow to at least 10" before you turn the cows loose on it. This assures that the forage has a chance to develop. Providing adequate nutrition to your animals. If you start too early with your grazing, you could stunt the growth of your pasture as well as jeopardizing the health of your animals.

To sum it up. Just make sure that everything is truly ready before you turn the cows out.

HAVE A GREAT GRAZING SEASON!



Organic & Conventional

Brown Pullets for sale.

Hyline brown, Novogen brown,
Bovan brown & Easter Eggers.

- *Also GMO Free pullets available.*
- *Delivery of pullets available.*

Call New Generation Poultry Service Inc.

newgenpoultry@gmail.com

(717) 587-9113

Fertrell's Green Potash

Green Potash is a Fertrell product containing zeolite and algae potash with an analysis of 0-0-15. The zeolite component has potential to loosen heavy soils and increase water holding capacity. This unique structure of zeolite also enables it to effectively exchange minerals and nutrients. Essentially zeolite has the ability to

loosely hold potassium and other nutrients in suspension, which keeps them readily available for plant uptake.

The second component of Fertrell's Green Potash is algae potash which provides trace minerals and micronutrients, as well as a source of potassium. Potassium is one of the most important nutrients for plant growth. It is part of the base saturation and when amending the soil, the percentage of potassium is balanced based on the type of crop being grown. In addition to providing for overall plant health, potassium plays a major role in the regulation of water uptake and usage in plants, and is known to improve drought resistance. Plant shape, size, color, and taste are improved when adequate potassium is available.

- It has the ability to absorb a large amount of its weight in water, which will lead to less overall watering throughout the growing season.
 - It is good for use in greenhouses and high tunnels where additional potassium is needed, but additional sulfur is undesirable.
 - It can be used in forage fields and pastures with adequate phosphorus levels, to provide the potassium needed for expected yields.
 - It provides a boost of potassium to finish field crops to the plant's potential output.
 - It is especially useful for large fruiting plants that require adequate potassium to size and finish the crop.
- Typical applications rates of Fertrell's Green Potash are 4-8 lbs. per 1000 sq.ft., 150-300 lbs per acre, or as required per soil test results.

Green Potash, which is an organic component with large amounts of readily available potassium, has several benefits:

- It provides overall soil conditioning and trace minerals and micronutrients.

Green Potash is a unique fertilizer blend available exclusively at Fertrell in 50 lb. bags and 2000lb. totes. Contact your Fertrell dealer or salesperson, or call our office at 800-347-1566 to inquire about pricing and delivery.



**March Special
Fertrell Green Potash**
Concerned About Low Potassium?
***10% off through March**

We couple zeolite and our very own kelp source to provide your plants with ample amounts of potassium and soil conditioning power!



It will feed your plants adequate potassium all season long!



Effective At Controlling Rodents

Excellent options available for Organic producers



New Generation Poultry Service, Inc.
717-587-9113
newgenpoultry@gmail.com

Spring is HERE! Be Ready With...

NUTRI-SIL

Forage Inoculant - Making Forages Go Further

***10% off during March**
Restrictions apply.

With a custom blend of live beneficial bacteria Nutri-sil will control and direct the fermentation of ensiled feeds. Now contains Buchneri bacteria!!

Available in:
Water Soluble
Delivering not less than 20 billion colony forming units per gram total bacteria

Dry Blends
Delivering over 90 billion colony forming units per pound of total bacteria



PRODUCER OF NATURAL & ORGANIC FEED SUPPLEMENTS & FERTILIZERS

10% discount for orders placed by March 31st.

Nutri-Sil - Forage Inoculant by Jeff Mattocks

Fertrell's Forage Inoculant is available in a dry and a water-soluble form. Water Soluble Nutri-Sil decreases the pH rapidly to begin the fermentation process for good quality stored silages and baled forages. The lactic acid bacterium begins the fermentation process,

helping the forages to retain more moisture, protein, and energy value. Using water soluble Nutri-Sil will help with the palatability and the digestibility of the silage and baled forages.

Water soluble Nutri-Sil has the same bacteria that our trusted Nutri-Sil has, which has been accepted for organic production for over 20 years. One 500 gram package will treat 100 tons of product providing 5 grams per treated ton of forage.

GUARANTEED ANALYSIS

Total Bacteria

(Enterococcus faecium, Lactobacillus buchnei, Bacillus Subtilis, Lactobacillus plantarum, Pediococcus acidilactici, Enterococcus faecium, Bacillus subtilis) 125 Billion CFUs per 5 gram

Nutri-Sil (dry) is a live bacterium, added to silage and baled forages to assist the fermentation process. It causes the forages to retain more of their moisture, protein and energy value and increases the palatability and digestibility of the harvested crop. This product is packaged in a 50 lb paper bag.

GUARANTEED ANALYSIS

Total Bacteria

(Enterococcus faecium, Lactobacillus buchnei, Bacillus Subtilis, Lactobacillus plantarum, Pediococcus acidilactici, Enterococcus faecium, Bacillus subtilis) 115 Billion CFUs/lb (min)

DIRECTIONS

Mix thoroughly with forage at the rate of:

MOISTURE %	NUTRI-SIL (lbs)
60% or above	1 lb per ton
40%–60%	2 lb per ton
40% or less	3 lb per ton

Questions From The Field

Questions around Nutri-Sil for small square bales...

1. Application – Liquid or dry preferred for small square bale application? *Both work very well. However, if I were to choose a preferred method, I would recommend the liquid. Only*

because it provides a more uniform application and the bacteria is moisture activated. So, the water being used to spray on the hay would have already activated the bacteria to start working.

2. Hay Moisture Content – Is the product equally effective at 65% moisture vs 45% or 25%? *The moisture level does change the application rate. The ranges are: For Dry Nutri-Sil*

1 lb. per ton at 45% - 65% moisture

2 lb. per ton at 25% - 45% moisture

3 lb. per ton below 25%

3. What is the maximum moisture level to bale hay treated with Nutri-Sil and NOT wrap it? *The highest I have seen was 26%. But that was scary. It was heating. I would say the moisture safe level is 22% or less.*

News From The Field

Just FYI, other minerals are nowhere near as good as Fertrell. I've had to do remedial mineral work on two herds here in Montana that were getting other minerals and had problems with kidding/kids. One herd had severe iodine deficiency, with kids even being born with goiters and hairless, some born live and some dead. The other herd had multiple kidding difficulties and deaths of weak kids.

I think perhaps that the salt in the other mineral limits the ability to intake the right amount of minerals, though I cannot be sure that is the reason. Both owners claimed to be feeding the other minerals free choice. In any case, Fertrell minerals and kelp remedied both herds. I recommend only Fertrell goat minerals because of that. I do recommend Redmond equine salt rocks and Redmond conditioner as a buffer in the feed ration in addition to the Fertrell goat minerals.

The local herd owners that use Fertrell goat minerals have outstanding hair quality on their goats and excellent kidding reports.

Angela Krebs, Heritage Organics MT

New Products This Season

Fruit blend 2-6-6 - Fruit trees and cane type fruit that is matured and bearing fruit have a higher need for phosphorus and potassium for sweeter fruit and faster ripening. Fertrell has design that fertilizer for established fruit bearing trees and canes. Lower levels of nitrogen to reduce water shoots or excessive new growth. Higher level of phosphorus for increased sugar formation and higher level of potassium to promote earlier fruit maturing. Along with essential micronutrients like sulfur, zinc and boron to ensure better plant health and vigor. This unique blend specifically developed for more and better tasting fruit. Available in 50 lb. bag and 2000 lb. tote.

Pro Cal 3-0-0 - is a fully soluble, dry fertilizer approved for use in organic production, specifically designed to supply this important nutrient as a foliar. Great to use in prevention of the blossom end rot, bitter pit, and other calcium deficiency blights. Available in 44 lb. bag.

Active 2-20-2 - is manufactured using the highest quality plant and mineral sources. The nitrogen comes from soy protein hydrolysate. Available in 44 lb. bag.

Micro Elements - is a blend of micronutrients, freshwater algae extract, nitrogen and plant extracted amino acids (derived from Soybean). Available in 2.5 gallon container.

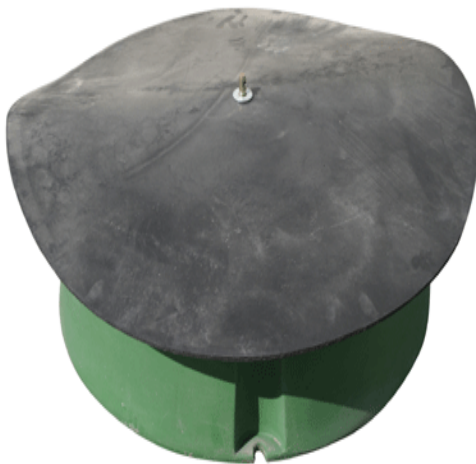
Explorer 10-0-0 - Liquid is a premium organic liquid nitrogen fertilizer. Explorer is 100% water soluble and approved for organic production. The L-Amino Acids in Explorer are immediately plant available, do not leach. Available in 2.5 gallon container.

Pro K 0-0-20 - is a fully soluble, plant derived, liquid potassium fertilizer approved for use in organic production with a proven efficiency at reduced rates with no added minerals such as nitrates, sulfates, or chlorides that normally accompany K fertilizers and readily assimilated by the plant. Available in 2.5 gallon container.

Dura Bull Mineral Feeder

Replacement flaps!

Just a reminder, although we discontinued the Dura Bull Mineral Feeders, we still have some of the small and large flaps available. Get them before they are gone!



New Dealers

PA Nittany Feeds - 1126 Beagle Road, Mill Hall, PA 17751 Phone: 570-927-2720

GA Double N Farms - 153 Doug Nix Road, Cleveland, GA 30520, Phone: 706-892-9365
doublenfarmsga@gmail.com,
www.doublenfarms.com

LA Local Cooling Farms - 4516 Clearview Pkwy, Metairie, LA 70006, Shop: 504-887-4336, Cell: 504-234-3564 (texting encouraged)
grant.estrade@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

Oct 13th - 14th 2023

Homesteaders for America Conference, Warren County Fairgrounds, 26 Fairgrounds Road, Front Royal, VA 22630 More info: <https://homesteadersofamerica.com/homesteaders-of-america-conference>

Pull Soil Tests This Spring by Orin Moyer

Why is soil testing so important? There are several key reasons why soil testing is necessary.

1. Well fertilized soils will produce more nutrient dense crops and higher yields.
2. Balanced soils will have less weeds.
3. Soil testing allows us to know which nutrients you need so they can be applied properly.
4. Organic Certification requires a soil test for application of micro-nutrients (Boron, Zinc, etc.).
5. Prevent deficiencies before they cost you \$ on your crops.



Fall is a great time to soil test your fields, but if you didn't get it done...pull samples this spring. By pulling soil samples in a timely manner; Fertrell can make fertilizer recommendations that will work with your other inputs (manure, etc.) to formulate a total plan for your crops. When you work with us to put together a total fertilization plan your crops will benefit by having all the necessary nutrients they need to reach maximum potential.

When we review you soil tests it will also allow us to make custom fertilizers if that is what is needed. This allows you to save money by not spending on nutrients you don't need. Applying nutrients in needed amounts will give you a more balanced soil; balanced soils will typically have much less weed pressure and support better crop growth.

Contact your local Fertrell representative or the main office to ask about getting soil testing bags.

We Only Spray Good Stuff By Seth J. Epler

I am very aware that most folks in the Organic farming world do not appreciate the word “SPRAY!” And I certainly understand the thinking behind that thought process. Spraying the harsh chemical stuff is completely against most of what Organic Agriculture represents.

However, in the heart of the season, spraying can sometimes still be a necessary practice. And there are many great natural things that can be applied. When the dry weather hits and the alfalfa are stunted, a nice sprayed application of Fertrell Liquid #3 can really rejuvenate that field. Another good example is when the humidity spikes and many produce growers get heavy disease pressure. In that case we may look to spray some of our natural controls like Regalia, Stargus, Majestine or Pro K, to help that crop from failure.

And I will speak for Pennsylvania where the weather is constantly up and down. So, pest and disease pressure are going to occur one way or another. In other words, it is very likely that spraying is going to happen at some point. So, the idea of pointing out that spraying is sometimes a must is to focus on the fact that if it is done correctly, it can be a big help.

So, coming into the end of winter, this could be a great time to inspect the spraying equipment. Sometimes an old beat-up backpack sprayer just doesn't cut the mustard. I realize spraying can be an annoying task for some with all the other important things there are to get done. Therefore, make sure your equipment is clean and ready to use. Or it is time to consider purchasing something new. If you are going out and not getting full coverage or the pressure is too low, you are just putting yourself in a place where you are going to have to go out and spray again. And the more you go out the more you lose on labor and product cost.

I know this is not some crazy enlightening

information. However, I do think it is important to point out. The Organic Agriculture world is growing in such a fantastic and rapid way. And that means that more and more natural bio-controls are being produced each season. So along with all the normal go to products like Fertrell's Liquid #3, Fertrell Liquid Kelp Concentrate, Fertrell Liquid 3-4-3, Pure Spray Green, Regalia, Majestine, Stargus, Pro K etc. there are many great things being developed to help our whole farming community continue to find success.

With that all said, take the time to inspect the spraying equipment and begin to get your planning started for the upcoming spring. And remember that even something as tedious as spraying can be very important in the continued success of any farming operation.

News From The Front

Custom blends – just a friendly reminder, custom blends may have a slight over / short run. Since customs are made specifically for you, these overruns will be added to your order. Also, confirmed custom orders are the financial responsibility of the customer, even in case of cancellation after the order has been produced.

Submitting your orders - Soon our busy season will be in full swing, the phones have been getting a lot busier already. We would like to ask all our customers who have a fax or email, to place their orders in written format, to free up the phone lines. This will allow you to submit your order at your convenience, even after hours. Our fax number is 717-367-9319 or email accounting@fertrell.com.

Shipping instructions – please be sure to give all the shipping details when placing your order: Lift gate, delivery appointment, driver notification, short truck, road restrictions etc. Most carrier charge extra for anything that are not a dock-to-dock business shipment. Having the information ahead of time will give us a chance to shop the freight rates correctly. If you

are not always at your delivery location, its best to pay for a delivery appointment, then having re-delivery charges added. But keep in mind, with some carriers, delivery appointments may delay the delivery by a day.

Per our customers' request, a reminder on our payment terms: We accept the following payment options: Check, Money order, Visa, Mastercard, Discover, (customer initiated) ACH payments.

First time customers must prepay their first order prior to shipment leaving the dock. Once credit has been approved, a credit limit and payment terms will be set for each account. We offer product promotional discounts throughout the year as well as Early Order Blue River Seed and Fertilizer discounts.

Discounts do not apply to credit card payments, special quoted items, to past due accounts and in conjunction with any other discounts, including the 10% monthly discounts.

Accounts 60 days+ past due, will be put on prepay / COD basis. If an old balance remains outstanding, COD payments must include (an agreed upon) additional amount on the old balance.

There will be a \$30 fee for non-sufficient fund checks. Any returned check they must be replaced with a money order or credit card payment, another check may not be used.

New customers who are tax exempt must submit their completed tax-exempt form with their order, otherwise we are required by law, to charge sales tax on purchases.

Early Order and Seed shipments - A friendly reminder, that all early order fertilizer orders must be shipped or picked up no later than March 15th, 2023. Seed: we will notify you as soon as the seed shipments come in. Please arrange to include all your seed orders with your next order to free up warehouse space. Thank you!



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77 YEARS!

Dr. Paul's Quarterly Specials

10% Off through March 31st



Aloe C
 Whole-leaf organic aloe vera, ascorbic acid, rose hips. Available in 1 gallon jugs.



OLS-M
 Organic grain alcohol, oregano, lobelia, slippery elm, mullein and organic apple cider vinegar. Available in 8, and 32 oz bottles.



CEG Tincture
 Cayenne, echinacea, and garlic. Available in 8, and 32 oz.

10% Off April 1st - June 30th



CGS Remedy
 Elecampane root, walnut leaf, black walnut hulls, mugwort and wormwood. Available in 60oz, 5 qt, and 15 lb.



Dull It Tincture
 Organic alcohol, Organic apple cider vinegar, white willow bark, st. johnswort, chamomile, arnica, and fennel. Available in 8 oz bottles.



Calf Start
 MFG 150 OMRI approved, tinctures of garlic, slippery elm, and cayenne and vitamin C in organic grain alcohol. Available in 32 oz, 64 oz, and 1-gallon bottles.

