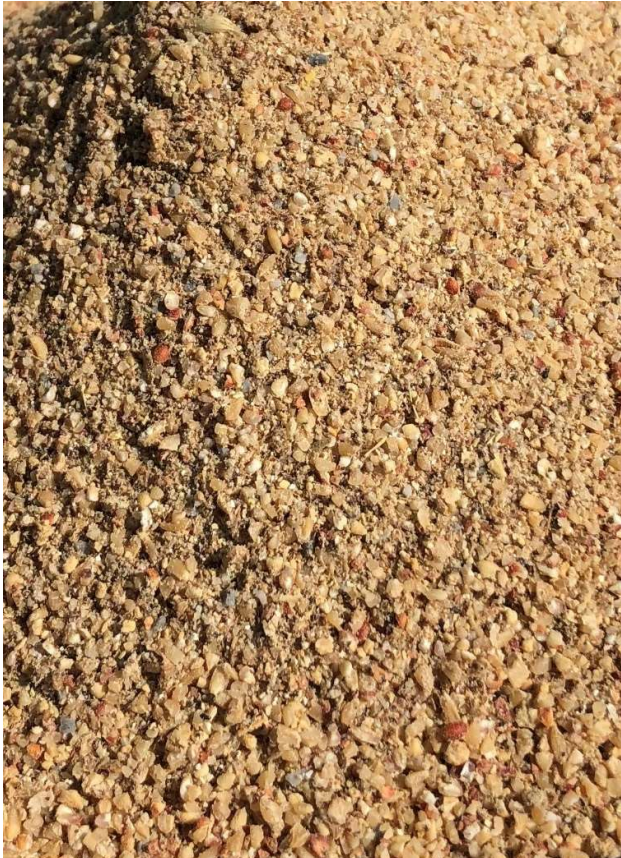


FEED PRESENTATION TYPES

Depending on poultry type, bird age, and feed specification, feed can be manufactured into several different presentation types, including mash, crumbles, pellets, and grain mixes.

Feed Types

Mash



Mash feeds are the basic feed mill feed. Grains are crushed and thoroughly mixed to produce the final product.

There are advantages and disadvantages with mash feeds.

Mash feeds have no heat applied in the manufacturing process, so there is a risk that if the ingredients contain Salmonella, this may be passed onto your chickens.

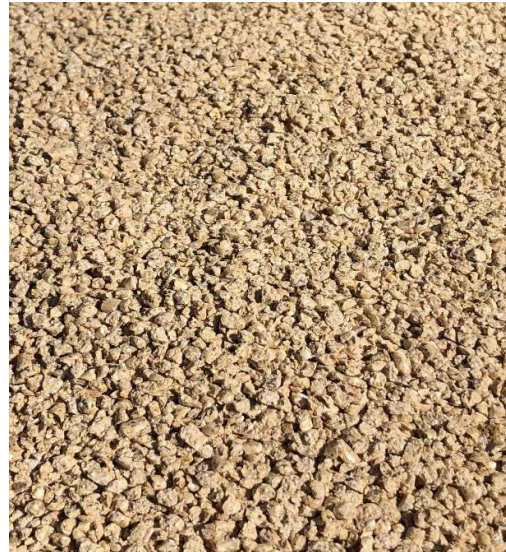
With mash feeds, the opportunity for particle selection is possible, so some chickens may be more selective in what they eat than others. With particle selection, poultry may not get the full nutrient requirements for growth or production. This selection is more likely to occur in free range poultry.

Mash feeds generally take longer to consume so the bird is occupied longer in eating.

Crumbles



Starter Crumble



Grower Crumble



Layer Crumble

Crumble feeds are produced by heating the thoroughly mixed feed ingredients so that they gelatinase (stick together) after which they are pressed into pellets. These pellets are then crushed and sieved to various sizes depending on the type of feed being produced.

Small chicks need a fine crumble, growing chicks a slightly larger crumble, and layers a large crumble (see above images).

Crumble feeds have several advantages. They can be produced in several different sizes specific to the chicken's requirement. Being heat treated during manufacture, any diseases in the ingredients of the feed are killed and not passed through to the poultry being fed. Crumbles are a complete feed, so poultry cannot pick and choose specific ingredients.

Pellets



Pellets are produced by passing the thoroughly mixed feed ingredients through a press after being heated.

The rotating speed of the press determines the length of the pellets, and the press determines the diameter.

It is important that the diameter and length of the pellets are suitable for the birds being fed or feed wastage may be high as birds search through the feed for appropriate size pellets.

Heat treatment of the feed ingredients during manufacture kills any disease organisms in those ingredients so that the potential for disease does not pass to the poultry being fed.

Generally, pellets will only be fed to adult layers and other larger poultry (ducks, geese, turkeys, etc.).

Scratch Mix



Scratch mix is generally a mix of whole and/or cracked grain.

SCRATCH MIX IS NOT SUITABLE AS THE SOLE SOURCE OF FEED FOR PRODUCTIVE POULTRY.

The NSW Department of Primary Industry does not recommend scratch mix.

Additionally, feed mills generally use the words “use for supplementary feeding of poultry” or “complement the diet of poultry” on their bagged product.

Backyard producers should only use scratch mix as a treat, or for training purposes such as housing the birds at night.