

News from the Green Valley Farm



Welcome to the Green Valley Farm

Welcome to our twenty sixth edition of 'News from the Farm' from the team at Green Valley. We know how passionate our community & connecting with you is a true pleasure. Offering you all with our industry updates and insights into all things Green Valley, our aim is to support our valued retailers in-store and our end users, by equipping you with all first hand educational tools to service your customers or to upskill your own knowledge base.

This month, we're leaning into SPRING and rise of chick season, along with how to continue supporting your mixed tribe on hobby farms, a touch of racing pigeon nutrition and balancing fibre & supplements with Equine nutrition. Got a Green Valley success story?? Drop us a line on our socials or websites as we LOVE hearing what is happening out there with our community.



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& Animal
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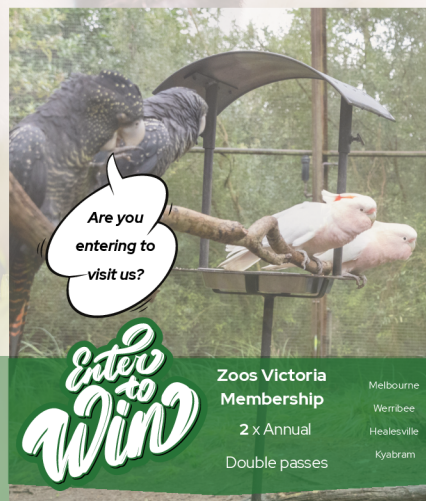
GVG in the Community

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**Green Valley Grains
MAJOR Sponsor for 2025**



Our wonderful community showing their support at this year's Royal Melbourne Show

**During September
we gave away via our socials**

**Zoos Victoria
Membership
2 x Annual
Double passes**

Melbourne
Wendee
Healesville
Kyabram

**4 x ANNUAL Zoos Victoria
Memberships & 10 x
double Day entry passes**



Crumble or Mash?

Feeding Baby Chicks with Starter Crumble vs Starter/Grower Mash

The pros, cons, and best practices to help you make an informed decision....

Why the Form of Feed Matters?

Young chicks are tiny, delicate, and highly sensitive to feed texture, digestibility, and nutrient concentration. The physical form of feed — whether crumbled pellets or a finely ground mash — greatly influences how easily chicks can ingest and metabolize nutrients. Crumbles are traditionally easier for small beaks to pick, can reduce wastage, and lend themselves to better feed conversion, especially in the critical first weeks. On the other hand, a mash may be more readily digested and are in a form that the chick will ultimately be living off later in life, but some may argue that mashes can carry a higher rate of waste, caking, and uneven intake if not carefully managed.

Nutritional Demands in the Starter Phase?

From day one, chicks need high levels of protein, energy, vitamins, and minerals to build bone structure, feathering, muscle and immune capacity. Starter feeds are usually formulated to deliver around 18–22% protein during this phase. As chicks mature, their growth rate slows, and the relative protein requirement declines — this is where grower feeds come in with adjusted levels. If your mash is formulated to serve both starter and grower phases, it may carry a compromise: sufficient but not optimal early-stage concentration. In contrast, a dedicated starter crumble can “push” early growth faster, as long as other conditions are ideal.....



Practical Advantages of Each:

A starter crumble offers ease of use (less dust, easier handling, simpler feeders), good feed conversion for small birds, and consistent quality. However, it requires a future transition to grower feed, which must be managed carefully to avoid growth dips or digestive issues.

A starter/grower mash simplifies feed inventory and reduces the need for switching feeds early. It may suit a more forgiving or low-labor management style. But its success depends on tight control of feed conditions, monitoring of chick performance, and vigilance against wastage or feed spoilage.

Best Practice Recommendations:

- *Check the labels — don't assume 'starter/grower mash' is automatically inferior.*
- *Monitor your birds closely for growth, feathering, and vitality.*
- *Transition slowly between feeds by mixing gradually.*
- *Keep mash dry, avoid caking, and ensure ventilation to reduce dust.*
- *Always provide grit and clean water.*

There is no one-size-fits-all answer. If your priority is maximizing early growth and you don't mind managing feed changes, a starter crumble is often a solid choice. If convenience, simplicity, or minimal feed stock handling is your priority, a high-quality starter/grower mash can suffice — provided you manage it well and monitor your flock carefully. In either case, good husbandry, clean water, proper housing, and close observation are what ultimately make or break chick rearing success.



SAFE
to
feed to the
ENTIRE
FLOCK

All Natural **NO ADDED ANTIBIOTICS**

Premium Starter/Grower Mash for upto 18 weeks

19% CP

With **ADDED** Pron8ure Probiotics





POULTRY MIXES

BLENDS TO SUIT EVERY FLOCK



POULTRY MIX

Economical Scratch mix
14% CP
Perfect for Backyard
chooks



PREMIUM LAYER MIX

Premium Scratch Mix
with Protein Pellet
18% CP
ProN8ure Probiotics



HOME GROWN SHORT PELLET

Premium Pellet for all
backyard birds
16% CP
ProN8ure Probiotics



STARTER GROWER MASH

Premium Starter/Grower
Mash for upto 18 weeks
19% CP
ProN8ure Probiotics



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Feeding Horses in Spring

Balancing Fibre, Pasture Risk & Supplements



Spring is a critical season for horse nutrition. The shift from winter feed to growing pasture, warming days and cool nights, and the temptation of lush green grass all combine to create both opportunity and danger. A sound feeding strategy in spring must prioritise fibre, manage the risks of spring pasture, and, when needed, supplement with energy and protein feeds—ideally selecting safe and well-balanced options such as those offered by Green Valley Grains.

The Risk of Spring Pasture

Spring pasture is lush but can be dangerous due to high sugar and starch levels. Risks include laminitis, colic, and metabolic disorders. Contributing factors are cool nights, sunny days, sudden diet changes, and overgrazed pastures. To reduce risks: introduce grazing gradually (strip grazing), restrict turnout during high-risk hours, use muzzles, manage pasture height, and monitor for laminitis signs.

Why Fibre Is Foundational

Horses are hindgut fermenters: their digestive system is adapted to handle high volumes of fibrous material (forage). Fibre maintains gut motility, stimulates chewing, supports healthy microbial populations, slows sugar absorption, and reduces digestive upsets. In spring, it is essential to keep hay or mature forage in the diet to balance lush pasture and maintain gut health.

Here's why:

1. High non-structural carbohydrate (NSC) levels: Cool nights and warm, sunny days contribute to accumulation of sugars, fructans, and starch in rapidly growing grass.
2. Risk of pasture-associated laminitis: Overconsumption of sugar-rich pasture can trigger a laminitic episode in susceptible horses.
3. Sudden diet shifts: A horse that has had limited pasture all winter may not have the microbial adaptation in the hindgut to process an abrupt influx of rich pasture.
4. Overgrazing and low pasture height: The lower leaf sheaths (closer to the ground) often hold more stored sugars; if pasture is overgrazed, that risk is amplified.
5. Time-of-day variation: NSC concentrations tend to rise during the day (peak in the afternoon) and decline overnight. Grazing in early morning (or overnight) is safer.

To reduce risk:

- Introduce grazing gradually, starting with short periods (e.g. 30 minutes) and increasing slowly.
- Use grazing muzzles, restrict turnout during high-risk hours (afternoon), or keep the horse on a dry lot during adverse conditions.
- Mow or manage pasture to keep grasses in an actively growing stage (less sugar accumulation).
- Test pasture forage or use hay known to be low in NSC (e.g. < 10–12 %) as a safer base during risky periods.
- Monitor horses daily for signs of early laminitis (e.g. warm hooves, increased digital pulses, "walking on eggshells").

In many regions, spring poses one of the highest laminitis risk windows of the year.



Feeding Horses in Spring

Balancing Fibre, Pasture Risk & Supplements cont....

When Supplementary Feeding Is Needed

There are many cases when just pasturing or hay may not be enough to maintain body condition, especially for:

- Performance horses in work
- Mares in late pregnancy or lactation
- Horses recovering from illness or weight loss
- Horses on restricted pasture (to manage laminitis risk)

A supplementary grain or concentrate can help “fill the gap.” But it must be chosen and fed wisely—never at the expense of fibre, and always balanced to avoid sugar or starch overload.

When selecting supplementary grains, look for:

- Moderate to low starch content
- High digestibility
- Good protein (or complementing protein)
- A known, clean source
- Compatibility with other dietary ingredients

This is where Green Valley Grains comes in. As an Australian, boutique, FeedSafe-accredited feed manufacturer, they offer a range of quality grains that can be used to create your base ration.

Some relevant products and grains:

- Steam rolled (steamed & rolled) barley – by steaming and rolling, digestibility improves while still keeping fibre integrity
- Lupins (cracked and steam and rolled) – a high-protein, high fibre complement; useful for balancing amino acid supply.
- Oats (or steam rolled oats) – a moderate energy grain that also contributes fibre.
- Black sunflower seeds – a source of fat and some protein, useful for coat condition and caloric density.

Example approach:

Using a small amount of steam rolled barley as an energy source.

Add cracked lupins to contribute protein, especially if pasture or hay protein is marginal.

Oats can be used as a “safer” grain supplement, balancing the cereal load.

Black sunflower seeds supply fat (energy-dense) and help with coat and condition without spiking insulin as much as pure carbohydrate sources.

No one-size-fits-all: Every horse is different. A good feeder works in consultation with veterinarians or nutritionists.

Balance is everything: Fibre, protein, energy, minerals, vitamins, and salt must all align for a healthy, spring-feeding strategy.

(Note: Always check with a qualified equine nutritionist or veterinarian before formulating a custom mix.) you can contact megan@greenvalleygrains.com to find out more!





PIGEON MIXES

BLEND TO SUIT
RACING AND
FANCIERS



**PIGEON
MIX**

Added natural multi strain probiotic ProN8ure® for optimal intestinal digestion and health



**RACING
PIGEON MIX**

Formulated specifically for racing pigeons. A high carbohydrate blend.



**HIGH FLIER
MIX**

With popcorn and Avi Hemp TM high omega natural superfood. added ProN8ure live Probiotic



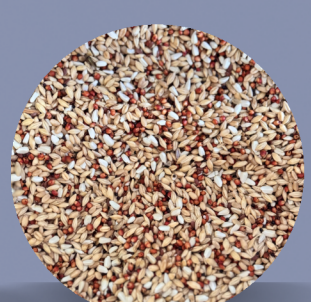
**BREEDER
PIGEON MIX**

premium mix formulated specifically for breeding pigeons.



**DEPURATIVE
PIGEON MIX**

An ideal depurative mixture for the sports season or the resting, letting down period.



Feeding Racing Pigeons

Racing pigeons are elite avian athletes. Just like human endurance runners or cyclists, they require a precise balance of nutrients at the right time to maximise performance, recovery, health, and longevity. The foundation of success lies in selecting and managing high-quality feed, adapted to each stage of training, breeding, and competition.

In this article, we'll walk through the core principles of pigeon nutrition, then explore how the Green Valley Grains feed line supports those principles.

Key Nutritional Requirements for Racing Pigeons

Below are the major nutrients to focus on, and how they apply to performance, maintenance, breeding, and recovery.

Energy / Carbohydrates: Fuel for flight, endurance, and metabolism. A substantial portion (often 50-60 % or more) of the feed should be energy grains (corn, wheat, sorghum, etc.).

Protein / Amino Acids: Muscle repair, feather growth, egg formation. During breeding or molting, demand increases. For racing pigeons, protein levels of ~12–16 % are common (lower during heavy flying phases, higher in breeding/moulting).

Fats: High-density energy, helps with sustained performance, supports absorption of fat-soluble vitamins. Typical fat levels in racing mixes run ~7–12 %.

Vitamins & Minerals: Essential for metabolic processes, immune support, bone health, antioxidant functions. Needs to cover A, D, E, B-complex, trace minerals (zinc, selenium, manganese, etc.).

Water & Electrolytes: Critical for hydration, thermo-regulation, and maintaining electrolyte balance during exertion. Always provide fresh, clean water; supplement electrolytes during heavy training or hot weather.



Why Clean, Dust-Free, Quality Grain Matters

Digestibility & Efficiency: Birds expend energy just in digestion. Clean, well-processed grains allow more net gain.

Reduced Health Risks: Dust, molds, mycotoxins, and poorly stored grains can lead to respiratory issues, gut problems, or toxicity.

Consistency & Predictability: A well-blended, quality feed gives you a baseline. Then minor tweaks or supplements can be added.

Green Valley Grains is a FeedSafe® accredited manufacturer, ensuring good quality standards.

Here's a quick look at specific Green Valley Grains feeds and what roles they best serve:

Green Valley Grains Pigeon Mix: A general-purpose mix for both racing and breeding purposes.

Green Valley Racing Mix: A high-carbohydrate blend with corn, wheat, peas, safflower, sorghum, and canola oil. Ideal for training/racing phases.

Green Valley Breeding Mix: Tailored to the breeding and rearing phase, when more protein and minerals are needed. Suggested to be fed with a specialised supplement.

Green Valley Depurative Pigeon Mix: A specialised detox/recovery mix, often used post-race or during stress recovery.

Green Valley High Flyer Racing Mix: Premium high-energy mix with popcorn, hemp seeds (omega-rich), and live probiotics (ProN8ure®) for peak racing performance.

Hobby Farm Feeding



Why this is one of our best selling mixes....

Green Valley Grains Hobby Mix is a supplementary feed formulated from a blend of steam-rolled grains and legumes (barley, maize, lupins, wheat, oats), lucerne chaff, vitamins and minerals, coated with molasses and vegetable oils. It is intended to complement — not replace — pasture and/or hay, and must be introduced gradually while ensuring fresh water is always available. Below is a guide to using the Hobby Mix with different farm species, and what to watch for in each.

Cattle, being ruminants, digest fibre efficiently, but still need energy, protein, minerals and a bit of starch to maintain condition, especially during lactation or growth.

Feed rate: up to about 0.5 % of body weight (as a supplement) when pasture is available.

Provide high-quality roughage (hay, pasture) to keep rumen function healthy. Since Hobby Mix does not contain a rumen buffer, care must be taken to avoid acidosis from rapid fermentation of grains.

Monitor body condition, milk yield (in dairy cows), and signs of digestive upset (bloating, loose dung).

In times of low pasture availability (drought, winter), the Hobby Mix helps supply extra energy and protein, but you may need to balance with additional minerals or buffers.



Sheep also are ruminants and benefit from supplementary grain when pasture quality is poor, during pregnancy/lactation, or for growth.

As with cattle, the guideline is up to ~0.5% of body weight (depending on other feed) for the Hobby Mix.

Maintain access to adequate fibre (hay or rough pasture) to support rumen health.

For ewes in late pregnancy or lactation, monitor for twin/triplet requirements — protein, energy and mineral needs rise significantly.

Watch for acidosis or feed sorting; mixing small amounts with roughage can encourage more uniform intake.



OPEN RANGE HOBBY MIX 20 KG

Designed to be fed with pasture and/or hay, as a supplementary feed to a range of animals, including pigs, poultry, sheep and cattle and alpacas.



Hobby Farm Feeding Continued.....

Goats share similarities with sheep, but they can be more selective feeders and possibly more sensitive to dietary imbalances.

Use the Hobby Mix as a supplement (not sole feed).

Ensure plenty of roughage (browsing, hay) so they can physically chew and maintain rumen buffering.

Because goats may sort feed, ensure the mix is well blended and avoid letting them pick only the palatable high-starch bits.

Mineral supplementation (especially copper, selenium, zinc) must be suited to goats.



Camelids have a somewhat different digestive physiology (three-compartment stomach), and they tend to be more efficient in fibre use, so grain supplementation must be more cautious. The Hobby Mix may serve as a supplement particularly in dry seasons or when forage is poor, but should never dominate the diet. Overfeeding grain can lead to digestive upsets or obesity, since alpacas are generally low input in feeding. Provide good quality fibre (hay, pasture) continuously, and introduce Hobby Mix slowly.

Ensure that mineral balance is appropriate for camelids (they have particular demands for calcium, phosphorus, trace minerals).

Unlike ruminants, pigs are monogastric (single-stomach) animals and require a different balance of energy, protein and amino acids (especially lysine) for growth and reproduction. Hobby Mix can be used as a supplementary or partial feed for pigs, but it is not a complete diet. As pigs do not have rumen buffering, the inclusion of the molasses and oils in the mix helps palatability and energy density. Monitor for excessive starch or energy that may lead to digestive upset or obesity, especially in sows or non-breeding pigs.

Supplement or ensure adequate protein (especially essential amino acids), vitamins, and minerals to match the pig's stage: growing, finishing, gestating or lactating.

Recommendations :

Always introduce Hobby Mix gradually, especially when changing from one feed to another, to allow the animal's rumen or gut flora to adjust. Because GVG Hobby Mix is a supplement, diet planning must account for other feeds (pasture, hay, silage, or other concentrates). Tailor feeding rates according to body weight, production stage (growth, lactation, maintenance), and forage availability. Always ensure clean fresh water is freely available.



Regularly monitor body condition, growth rates, health status, and fecal quality as feedback to adjust feed levels or composition. Used appropriately, Green Valley Grains Hobby Mix can be a flexible, palatable supplement across multiple farm species, helping support production or body condition when forage alone is insufficient.

ZOOS Victoria

The Green Valley team is committed to supporting the Fighting for Extinction program in collaboration with Zoos Victoria, which is why we have chosen to become a 'Feeding Partner' in this initiative. One of the remarkable birds we are helping through the ZOOS Victoria Fighting Extinction program is the tiny yet MIGHTY Helmeted Honey Eater. We at Green Valley are incredibly proud to partner with ZOOS Victoria as the 'Official Feeding Partner' for years to come.



FeedSafe

Green Valley Grains is an accredited member of FeedSafe® - Quality Assurance Accreditation Program for the Australian Stockfeed industry. To obtain FeedSafe® accreditation, feed manufacturers are required to undergo annual site audits, these are conducted by independent third-party auditors. Green Valley Grains are assessed on everything from premises and buildings, raw material sourcing and purchasing, product inspection, sampling and testing to loading, transport and delivery. You can be assured that you are buying a quality product when using a Green Valley Grains feed.



ProN8ure

We choose to add PRO(N8)URE®-IFS a heat-stable "in feed solution" that combines a prebiotic, dual strain probiotic, and multi-strain enzyme to enhance digestion and health.

- Prebiotic: Feeds beneficial gut bacteria, lowers pH, and reduces harmful compounds.
- Probiotic: Live microbes that balance intestinal flora, optimizing digestion and improving animal health.
- Enzyme: Natuzyme breaks down Anti-Nutritional Factors in feed, enhancing digestibility and maximizing nutritional value in meat and egg production.

And PoroN8re multi-strain probiotic to our feeds.

