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# Focus on feed rations

What is it and why is it important for animals?

Volume 28  
Middle/High School  
**Time: Approx. 2 days**

**Course:** Animal Science

**Unit:** Nutrition



## AFNR Standards:

### AS.03.01.01.b.

Differentiate between nutritional needs of animals in different growth stages and production systems (e.g., maintenance, gestation, natural, organic, etc.).

### AS.03.01.02.b.

Correlate a species' nutritional needs to feedstuffs that could meet those needs.

### AS.03.02.01.a.

Compare and contrast common types of feedstuffs and the roles they play in the diets of animals.

### AS.03.02.01.b.

Determine the relative nutritional value of feedstuffs by evaluating their general quality and condition.

## Common Core Math Standards:

### CCSS.MATH.PRACTICE.MP4

Model with mathematics.

### CCSS.MATH.PRACTICE.MP6

Attend to precision.

## Materials list

- Nasco enzyme analyzer ([SB50722](#))
- Calculator ([TB26739](#))
- Assorted cereal and candy products
- Pen/Pencil
- Paper

## Objective

Student will be able to balance rations using the Pearson Square, SWBAT compare, and contrast nutritional requirements for livestock animals.

## Activities

- Balance a ration using the Pearson Square
- Make the feed package
- Collect the feed
- Place your feed in the package
- Answer the follow-up questions

**Step 1:** Balance the ration on the worksheet using the Pearson Square. Can be done as a warm up or independently.

**Step 2:** Get a blank piece of paper and make “feed package.” The package should include: name, ingredients, feeding directions, percent protein, cautions.

**Step 3:** Once you have your information, go to the “feed shop” and collect feeds. Complete parts a.–i. on worksheet.

**Step 4:** Close eyes, reach in, take a handful, and eat part of ration.

**Step 5:** Answer closing questions on worksheet.

**Assessment:** Student will hand in feed package and worksheet with balanced ration and questions answered.

## Optional instructions using the enzyme analyzer:

**Step 1:** Obtain a physical feed sample (or a few different kinds) from local farm or analytical lab.

**Step 2:** Using the Enzyme Analyzer Kit, students will expose three nutrients (carbohydrates, proteins, and lipids) from the feed sample(s) that were brought in/collected.

**Step 3:** Compare feed samples to nutrients in which no enzymes are added.

**Step 4:** Use the chemical tests to determine if the enzymes were/would be effective in digesting the compounds.



## SEL Power-Up Reflection

Suggested questions for an SEL-focused discussion after the project.

- How may working with a team of nutritionists influence how we make a ration?
- What parts of this exercise did we enjoy?
- What parts were difficult?

## GROUP REFLECTION

1. How could this activity be more real-life?
2. Are the same feedstuffs always used?
3. How may the feedstuffs used differ between species of livestock?

## SELF-REFLECTION

1. What part of this activity do I need more practice with?
2. Did I become frustrated and how could I have handled it better?
3. Is this a career I could see myself pursuing?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## 1. Balance a ration using the Pearson Square.

a. Feed cheap

1. You are looking for 16% protein
2. Mix a 1,000 lb. batch
3. Your feed options include:

Feed	Crude	Cost
Corn	9%	.32
Barley	12%	.11
Soy Bean Meal	44%	1.02
Cotton Seed Meal	41%	.98
Granular Molasses	5%	.31
Wheat Grain	12%	.57

### Feed list:

- Corn – Corn puffs
- Barley – Shredded Coconut
- Soy Bean Meal – Rice Krispies
- Cotton Seed Meal – Marshmallows
- Granular Molasses – M&Ms
- Wheat Grain – Frosted Flakes

Show Pearson Square work here:

Lbs. of feed #1: \_\_\_\_\_

Lbs. of feed #2: \_\_\_\_\_

Price per lb. of feed: \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Get a blank piece of paper and make your feed "package."**

- a. Name your feed.
- b. Include on your packaging:
  - 1. Ingredients
  - 2. Feeding directions
  - 3. % protein
  - 4. Cautions
- c. Use color.
- d. Fold and staple.

**3. Once you have your information, go to the "shop" and collect your feeds.**

- a. Take your pounds of each feed – divide by 100
- b. Put that number here:
  - 1. Feed One: \_\_\_\_\_(grams)
  - 2. Feed Two: \_\_\_\_\_(grams)
- c. Get a cup.
- d. Place it on the scale and zero it out.
- e. Using the number from Feed One (3.b.1. above) add "feed" to your cup until you reach the right weight.
- f. Pour that feed into your Feed Package.
- g. Repeat steps e. and f. for Feed Two.
- h. Shake your bag.

**4. Close your eyes, reach in, take a handful, and eat part of your ration. Answer the following questions.**

What is palatability? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Describe how your feed tastes: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Does your feed taste good? \_\_\_\_\_

What two feeds did you use?  
1. \_\_\_\_\_  
2. \_\_\_\_\_

What could you do to improve the feed taste? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Why is palatability important when feeding animals?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_