

## **GAME FEED**

The fencing or demarcation of game to a specific area will restrict and change the animals' free access and selection of plants. In order to keep game in an acceptable condition at all times and to ensure the optimal utilization of grass and leaves, supplementary lick feeding is required. Especially during periods of drought and the winter months animals tend to lose condition quickly and this subsequently impacts negatively on the reproduction and general production of the animal. The correct supplementation for game is, however, complex as there are large differences in eating habits and digestive systems. It is important to take note of the eating habits of the types of game on your farm.

### ***Three main groups exist:***

- Grass-eaters
- Leaf-eaters
- Grass and leaf eaters

The main objective of game licks is to supplement deficiencies in the veld and to whet the appetite of the grazing animal so that the veld may be utilized better. Other uses of game licks:

- ✍ For game in captivity (auction pens, bomas, etc.).
- ✍ To lure game to vantage-points as well as from a specific area (e.g. from ridges to plains).
- ✍ For game in hiding-places.
- ✍ As a general supplement on the veld when grazing becomes scarce in the winter.

### ***Requirements of game licks and management practices:***

- ✍ The condition of game is an indication of the available food as well as the quality and digestibility thereof.
- ✍ Depending on the type of game, game licks must be acceptable for both ruminants and monogastric animals (e.g. zebras, rhinoceros, elephants, bush-pigs and wart-hogs).
- ✍ The inclusion of urea is advantageous for cost-effective supplementation for ruminant game. PLEASE NOTE: Only where no monogastric animals have access to the lick.
- ✍ The lick must be palatable and lure the game.
- ✍ The lick must contain the necessary trace minerals and macro minerals. Kimtrafos 12 gives the necessary supplementation.
- ✍ Salt is supplied as a source of Na and Cl and limits intake.
- ✍ Game grazes more selectively than cattle and therefore obtains more protein from pastures. However, in winter the rumen has to be stimulated for better utilization and grazing. Energy is thus, especially in the late dry season, a greater challenge with regard to supplementation.

### Example of game lick

Elements	Summer lick (kg/mixture)	Winter lick (kg/mixture)
Maize-meal	-	550
Feed Grade Urea	-	25
Oilcake meal	-	150
Kimtrafos 12 Grande/PhosSure 12	500	75
Kalori 3000	-	50
Feed Grade Sulphur	50	2
Lucerne hay	-	100
Salt	450	250
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1000</b>	<b>1202</b>
<b>INTAKE</b>	<b>*0.6</b>	<b>250 – 500 g/day</b>
<b>Composition</b>		
Crude protein (%)	-	15.98
ME (MJ/kg)	-	9.18
Ca (%)	11.8	1.87
P (%)	6.0	1.00
S (%)	5.4	-

\*g/kg body weight

### Block recipe for game

The making of blocks is relatively easy, but requires some experimenting to obtain the correct hardness to ensure the correct intake. Blocks can be compressed or the fluidity can be increased and then poured into a block form to dry out. Change the amount of water, feed lime and / or Kalori 300 to obtain the correct hardness.

The order in which the ingredients are mixed, can also have a significant influence on the final product. Mix the dry and wet ingredients separately and then mix it together. To ensure proper mixing and binding, products such as the feed lime (preferably calcium hydroxide) and Kalori 3000 can also be mixed into the wet ingredients.

## Block Recipe

Ingredient	Kg/mixture			
	1		2	
	kg	%	kg	%
Maize (grounded)	250	20.8	300	24.9
Cottonseed oilcake	75	6.2	75	6.2
Hominy Chop	50	4.1	-	-
Feed Grade Urea	30	2.5	30	2.5
Kimtrafos 12 Grande/PhosSure 12	90	7.5	90	7.5
Feed Grade Sulphur	2	0.2	2	0.2
Feed Lime	10	0.8	10	0.8
Salt	150	12.4	150	12.4
Kalori 3000	225	18.6	225	18.6
Lucerne hay (finely grounded)	175	14.5	175	14.5
Molasses syrup (25 % moisture)	150	12.4	150	12.4
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>1207</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1207</b>	<b>100</b>
Water	70	5.8	70	5.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>1276</b>	<b>105.8</b>	<b>1276</b>	<b>105.8</b>
<b>Intake, g/day (game)</b>	<b>250 - 450</b>		<b>250 - 450</b>	

## Method

- 1) Mix all the dry ingredients.
- 2) Mix the molasses syrup and water. The amount of water can be slightly adjusted if the block is too wet or too dry. The recommended amount of water (5.8 %) seems to give the ideal block.
- 3) Add the molasses/water mixture to the dry ingredients and mix well; ensuring that all the dry ingredients come into contact with the molasses/water mixture.
- 4) Pour the mixture into a block form and press well. The stronger the press action, the quicker the block will become dry and hard and the better it will keep its shape.
- 5) Leave in the sun for 48 hours to dry out and harden.
- 6) Blocks can be kept under cover during rainy weather. Ensure good ventilation for quicker drying.
- 7) To obtain the correct weight for the blocks, the wet material must be weighed before it is pressed and again when it is dry, just before use. Adjust the weight of the wet material to give the correct dry block weight.