



# Hunter Nutrition

SPRING 2019

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Who is feeding and recommending Hunter Nutrition?
- Read about the new working relationship between Hunter Nutrition and Byron Seeds
- Find out what health and nutrition issues come as we head into spring.

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## ‘Choosing Club Lambs & Their Feed’

By: Jeff Hunter

While winning is a goal, having lambs that will place, be healthy and stay on feed is important. Decisions on lambs and their feed affect how enjoyable the project is. When choosing a lamb there are several things to consider. When buying lambs, the purchase weight is based on rate of gain & show date. Example: Buy April 15<sup>th</sup> at 67 lbs., show in 80 days; so a gain of 0.85 lbs./day is needed to have a 135lb show weight. You will feed 3.0 lbs./day for a 0.85 lbs. gain. If feed conversion is 3.5 lbs. feed/1.0 lb. gain you need 240 lbs. feed. Select lambs which are sound on feet and legs. Select for length of loin over width, because width

will develop over time.

Muscle Growth & Fat Deposition should be considered. Muscle Development: (1) Lower leg muscle develops early. (2) Growth occurs from the back to the front of an animal (3) Abdominal, neck, & front develop last. Fat Deposition Order (first to last), (1) Visceral (fat in body cavity), (2) Intermuscular (fat in between the muscles) (3) Subcutaneous (fat below skin/over ribs). (4) Intramuscular (fat within the muscle, marbling).

The most important characteristic of a good feed is that it must have a uniform particle size to avoid feed separation, which results in off feed times and poor performance.

Rations should be fresh, palatable, and free of fines.

Feed rations lower in fiber and higher energy to get the best growth. Avoid high oat & high fiber rations which produce a lower rate of gain and a soft finish. Feeds should be high protein, have a 2:1 Ca/P ratio, high levels Vitamin & Trace Elements, contain ammonium chloride and a coccidiostat Stay away from fads and don't just buy what the other guy is feeding. Look for cost related to results not cost per bag. Make sure your supplier is knowledgeable and can provide technical support on animal health and nutrition.

## “We Feed and Recommend”

A new program called “We Feed and Recommend” is being offered to Hunter Nutrition customers in partnership with *The Banner Sheep Magazine*. Hunter customers will receive a 10-percent discount on their ad in *The Banner Sheep Magazine*, which will include a “We Feed and Recommend” logo incorporated into that. *The Banner's* excellent graphic designers will help you promote your flock by designing and customizing each ad to fit the needs of your farm.

*The Banner Sheep Magazine* is a 40-year-old family-run publication,

whose main goal is to

“Promote the Betterment of the Entire Sheep Industry.” Published nine times a year, this sheep-centric magazine sends out the latest industry news, show and sale results, exclusive articles, care information and more to their 3,000 subscribers from coast to coast. *The Banner* staff also publishes breed journals for seven different purebred sheep associations, and manages sheep sales as Banner Sale Management.

Give *The Banner* a call to get started building your advertising program today, and let the sheep world know that you proudly feed

Article Provided by The Banner



Hunter Nutrition, “The Program That Performs.” Now is a great time to advertise your lamb crop, coming yearlings, stud bucks or brood ewes, as the next few issues of *The Banner* receive additional circulation at upcoming major sales. *The Banner* can be reached at 309/785-5058, or via email at [ads.banner@sybertech.net](mailto:ads.banner@sybertech.net).

# Don't Feed the Stress

Let's look at the word stress which means a body's way of responding to any kind of demand or threat. Animals experience stress during different times of their life cycle. It can be caused by being moved, changing feed, becoming sick, climate changes and being weaned. During this time of year as everyone is starting to purchase animals for the 2019 show season, we need to remember the stress that can be caused for the animal when we are transitioning then from one owner to another. We know that setting changes just come with buying animals, but if we think about the place that the animals come from and see if you can mimic any of the setting we can make the

transition less stressful. Simple things such as lighting, building temperature, types of bedding, and if they were with a group or separated can be things to mimic. The end goal to feeding animals is to put as many pounds on as quickly and efficiently. When you are transitioning animals from seller to buyer ask what kind of nutritional program they had been using. If you can use the same type of feed as you transition this will hopefully keep the animals from going off feed. The other thing to remember is if you are going to change the feed you need to make sure that you do it over a course of time instead of all at once. Typically, you can do this in about a week - two-week span. Start with taking the total

pounds that they eat in a day and figure what a quarter of it is. Mix a quarter of the new feed with three quarters of the old feed and feed this for a few days and if the animal doesn't show any problems bump it up to half new half old. Keep doing this transition over a period of a few days and eventually get to 100% of the new feed. This allows you to see if the animal will tolerate the new diet and gives them time to adjust the feed. Minimizing the stress makes the transition that much smoother. Don't hesitate to reach out for help if you have questions about diet changes and need help figuring out what feeds would work best for you animal.

By: Stefanie Skiles

# Welcome, Byron Seeds!

Introduction By: Jeff Hunter

About two years ago Bob Fairclough approached me about the possibility of using corn which was better than regular varieties. Bob explained that Byron Seed was selecting corn varieties which were higher in protein, oil, and digestibility. We have had many discussions since then. Last month was when it all came together. We made our first Kingfisher Feeds products, all pelleted feeds. The feed formulas are ours, but we use Byron's corn to make them with. The week after our first run I attended Byron's Corn Growers Meeting. I spoke to them about the historic decline of yellow corn's protein level and quality. I also discussed what type of corn it takes to make a good livestock feed. I talked to the plant breeder, Byron Seed staff, and corn growers at the meeting. The outlook to have a uniquely highly fortified corn to use in feed manufacturing of all of our feeds is possible for Fall 2019.

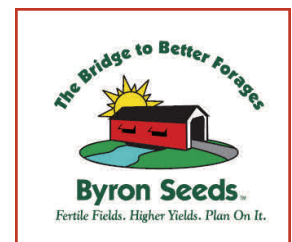
Byron Seeds Article Provided by Byron Seeds

The connection was swift and somewhat surprising. But it made so much sense. A powerful alliance between Hunter Nutrition and Byron Seeds, two major mid-west feed producers with a common vision: to create the promise of a consistent supply of the healthiest feed livestock farmers can depend on for peak performance. Hunter Nutrition is always looking ahead, working to make every success lead to another, for every product improvement to establish a higher promise of premium feed. Hunter is known for custom formulations of high performance feeds using only ingre-

dients with high nutrition values and digestibility. Byron Seeds is widely recognized for developing the best forage genetics in the world, consistently winning top honors at annual World Dairy Expo Forage Analysis Bowls. Their expertise is backed by almost 20 years of experience cultivating fertile fields with caring, natural soil management. Byron is considered among the foremost experts in energy forage production, small grains and cover crops, and continues to share this information with



others - farmer helping farmer. Now, together, Hunter and Byron have formed the bridge to create the leading non-GMO livestock feed for the future with the KingFisher Complete non-GMO line. A strong joint venture has been launched and a profitable alliance formed. It promises a new era of healthy soil, healthy crops, healthy livestock and healthy consumers. A profitable vision for all.



## Dealer Profile: Kolby Burch

By: Stefanie Skiles

If you are looking for a dealer in Nebraska, you can find Kolby Burch located outside Seward Nebraska. Kolby grew up using the Hunter Nutrition products on his family's farm in Wyoming. Since the products have been used for 20 years or longer he has a great knowledge of the sheep products. In 2016 Kolby, his wife Micky and their son Miles moved to his wife's grandfather's farm outside of Seward. They are the 5<sup>th</sup> generation to work the farm.

Kolby had been a dealer for Hunter Nutrition for 10 years. Quality has been a priority of his and he know with the Hunter Nutrition products he is getting a high quality product that he can use on his own flock and sell to his customers. Kolby likes that fact that the feed line has a product for every stage of production. The Burch family uses the products on their own

flock and they can see a difference in their animals. A few examples that Kolby used were the Super 20 Mini Lamb Pellet has helped them sell some superior lambs on their online sales; the lambs have good body condition and stand out when compared to other lambs. They have Hunter Nutrition make a custom 12% ewe pellet to minimize the starch intake and they have seen a dramatic improvement in their A.I. conception rate. 18 Show Lamb has also played an important role in their program, it's their go to feed to use when finishing out rams they want to sell. When asked how Hunter Nutrition compares to other feed companies Kolby points out that his positive experiences has made it easy to work with the company and as the feed business changes he knows the supportive staff at Hunter Nutrition will

be there to assist. Kolby thinks that the future of the feed business is going to shift from feeding large flocks to smaller flocks and that small scale livestock farming will continue to grow. With there being so much competition in the feed business it takes dedication to grow. By getting out and seeing his customers Kolby can develop a good working relationship with them which helps him better understand their operation. He finds this to be beneficial to his business. As the feed industry continues to change and feeds change Kolby thinks that advancements in micronutrients and how they can be used to improve feeds will play a role. We at Hunter Nutrition appreciate what Kolby does as a dealer and hope that our relationship continues to grow and prosper.

## Customer Profile: Jim Fields

By: Stefanie Skiles

Jim Fields has been raising cattle for 40 years in Battle Ground Indiana. His dad started farming back in 1957 as a grain and cattle farmer. Jim took over the farm when his dad retired and runs about 75 Angus and cross cows and grain farms. After the calves are weaned and started on feed he sells the calves as feeders and club calves. He first heard about Hunter Nutrition through word of mouth and started asking around about the company and the products. The first product that Jim started using was the 14% Calf Creep Pellet. This product has worked great for his operation. He had been doing some on farm mixing and he found that he liked the convenience of buying the complete feed.

Jim feels that the starter has helped him get a better price for his feeder calves. The feed has brought the best out in the calves, they stand out with their shiny coats and extra bloom. He believes the calves start and gain on the feed well and over-all it's a great ration. Jim has come to appreciate the service that he gets at Hunter Nutrition from the convenience of being close to him to the selection of items that we carry. He likes how quickly he can get products from the time that he orders to the time that it shows up at the farm. As the beef and the feed industry change Jim knows that he will have to make changes at this farm. He has already made changes to his record keeping which allows him to get customers the information that they want about genetic information. He has



already implemented new ways to ID his cows and heifers he is keeping. Jim is also trying to prepare himself for the changes that are being made in the feed industry with regards to the stricter regulations on drugs in feed. He knows that when he has questions regarding changes to the feed regulations he can always ask at Hunter Nutrition and he can get the help and advice that he needs.

Spring 2019

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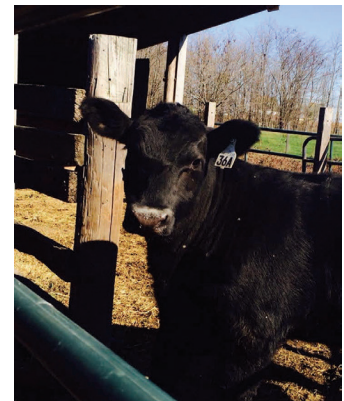
## Trouble Shooting: Spring Health Issues

Spring is always a time of re-newal and the hope of a good growing season. However the new season does create animal health and nutrition concerns. Concerns with performance (gain), **grass tetany**, fly season, and bloat should be addressed with preventative measures. Don't be fooled by the lush spring grass growth on your pastures. The early spring forage is mostly water and thus low in nutritional value. Animal performance suffers due to the inability to eat enough of the wet forage to meet dry matter, mineral, and energy needs. Providing free choice hay for at least two of days prior to turn out can prevent bloat. Continue feeding hay as a source of dry matter to maintain performance. Feeding a small amount of grain as a source of energy is also very helpful as a supplement to spring pasture. The fast growing, high moisture pasture and its diluted nutritional value can cause grass tetany. This magnesium deficiency causes neurological problems; 'grass staggers', convulsions, and possibly death. Magnesium is needed for many physiological functions. Magnesium is a com-

ponent of bone, important to nervous system function, and needed for enzyme function. Providing magnesium through the feed and/or with free choice mineral is very important. Animals need to be on adequate magnesium for a few weeks prior to spring grazing. We manufacture a **High Magnesium 2:1 Beef Mineral** for cow herds to address tetany in cattle. For Sheep and Goats which are less susceptible to tetany; use our standard feeds and free choice mineral as they contain magnesium levels which prevent tetany.

**Spring is also the time to begin your fly control program.** You should use at least two of the three control methods. Control flies with oral larvicides, residual premise spray, and/or fly 'catchers'. When using an oral larvicide such as Rabon or Altosid, an early start is critical to success. Oral larvicides go 'through' the animal into its manure, when fly eggs hatch in this manure, the larvae are killed by the larvicide. Start animals on the oral

## By: Jeff Hunter



larvicide four weeks prior to fly season. We provide a **2:1 Beef Mineral with Altosid** along with a **Sheep Mineral with Rabon** that will supply your animals with these oral larvicides. A good nutrition program is just as important during maintenance as it is when livestock are in a productive state. Don't let the turn out to pasture be a time of neglect and nutritional deficit. The spring move to maintenance should be a time of rebuilding and nutritional fulfillment – allowing stock to be ready to reach their full potential.