

Advantages of sprouted barley

- Regular grains fed to animals have a maximum digestibility of 40%. Sprouted grain have a digestibility of 78%.
- Starches in regular grains cause acidosis while the sprouting process converts them into plant sugars and amino acids which are the building blocks of production.
- The starch in non-sprouted grain lowers pH in the rumen which renders flora ineffective and inhibit their functions. During the Feedgrow® soaking cycle, which is the first step of the sprouting process, inhibitors in the seeds are dissolved. In the process more vitamins and minerals are made available to the animals.
- Of all grains barley has the highest crude protein content of 20,4%. Moreover, 56% of that 20,4% is flow-through protein which is immediately absorbed by the animal with visible results within 14 days after starting the Feedgrow® sprouted barley diet. Sprouting increases absorption. The sprouts are living plants with the fiber-to-nutrient ratio at its optimal advantage to animals. They also have the highest enzyme content of all feeds, ensuring high digestion levels that enable animals to digest low-grade feeds effectively by means of cellulolysis.
- Urea and molasses syrup are typically included in low-grade feed rations to break it down. This is unnecessary when feeding in combination with barley sprouts.
- Because of their high moisture content barley sprouts are soft and digest completely in the rumen. Feedgrow® recommends that a low-grade roughage is fed alongside it to enable rumination and transport the feed through to the lower intestines where nutrients are absorbed into the bloodstream.
- The feed's high moisture content enables a good hydration factor. Livestock can therefore eat more feed and drink less water, resulting in higher production.
- Profitable production can be achieved without the inclusion of medicaments, ionophore and hormone stimulants which make meat less palatable and less healthy.
- By feeding animals barley sprouts, healthy organic meat is produced with good marbling and Omega 3 fats, which can result in higher profits for the producer. (Information supplied by Feedgrow®)

Expert vindicates

The Southern African director of the world's foremost hydroponic fodder unit manufacturing company has refuted suggestions that such sprouted feed may not live up to its high expectations in large-scale beef cattle and other livestock production. Calling recent claims "outdated, incorrect and misleading", Mornay Ludeke pointed out that peer-reviewed industry research had, in fact, shown the opposite.



"Feedgrow International® has scientifically proved barley sprouts as the most nutritious and economic livestock feeding process in the world which results in the most superior livestock performances, gains and obviously highest profits and return on investments with mould-free production guaranteed," said Mornay, who is the owner of Feedgrow International® in South Africa.

He was dismayed at inaccuracies in a recently published article on the subject of which *Agriforum* ran a shortened, edited version under the headline "Hydroponic feed feasibility called into question" in its previous issue. The assumptions were, as he discovered, based on an Australian industry study of 2003 that had subsequently been disproved - a fact that both the original source and the magazine had missed through lack of verification.

While the article acknowledged hydroponically sprouted grain as nutritious feed with significant potential as emergency drought feed, it listed mould risk as well as high production and labour costs as major limitations. As it turns out, some of the claims were based on trials conducted as far back as 1937. Contemporary facts and success stories had not been taken into account.

Mornay likened it to comparing the fuel economy and general



hydroponic feed



At left is a Feedgrow® production unit and at right an inferior setup, which company director Mornay Ludeke refers to us "Product X". He advised potential Namibian consumers to be on the lookout for such cheap imitations and avoid incorrect sprouting methods.

performance of modern-day trucks with models of the 1950s. He cited recent laboratory results from the Cornell University in New York confirming the high nutrition value of Feedgrow barley sprouts produced at 86 cents per kilogram. Furthermore, the purported mould risk was entirely avoidable through correct growing procedures and conditions.

"Hydroponically grown barley fodder in a Feedgrow® unit can revolutionise the

agricultural industry worldwide, especially in drought-prone countries such as Namibia. Let's be fair and give people the correct and current information. In so doing we could help them save their farms, future and countries with this highly nutritious and economical livestock feeding method," he said. "Our customers thrive thanks to unique patented technology and methods that we incorporate in our fodder production units."



Correct: A barley fodder sample grown according to patented technology incorporated in Feedgrow production units. The resulting livestock feed has been independently verified as optimally nutritious and cost-efficient.



Incorrect: An incorrectly grown barley fodder sample. The limited root mass and overgrown tops indicate nutrient deficiency. These roots are also blackened by mould, which can be dangerous for livestock.

