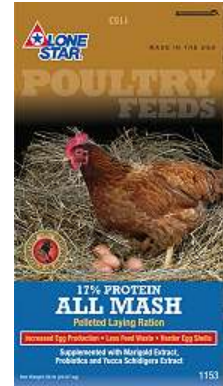


## The Importance of Fresh Feed

Several factors have a significant impact on egg production and hatchability; one of the most important is hen nutrition. Commercial poultry feed is a cooked product and is therefore perishable – it loses nutritional value as it ages. When stored under ideal conditions, poultry feed has a shelf life of up to 120 days. Feed stored under less than ideal conditions has a shelf life of less than 60 days. Nutrena recommends using pelleted feeds, including crumbles, within 60 days during summer months and 90 days during winter months.<sup>1</sup>

For best results, learn to decipher (decode) the Lot # printed on each bag of feed and check those numbers each time you make a purchase. It is especially important to check the mill dates for less popular feeds such as Game Bird Starter or specialty feed such as Chick Starter during the off-season. Additionally, farm stores often employ individuals who may not understand FIFO (First In, First Out)... they may stack new feed on top of old feed.



### Examples of Lot # Deciphering

#### PURINA MILLS

	Year	Month	Day of Month	Plant	
<b>7MAY01RVI</b>	7	MAY	01	EV1	May 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2017

#### Manna Pro

	Plant	Month	Day	Year	Hour	
<b>A05/01/17J</b>	A	MAY	01	2017	J	May 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2017

	Plant	Month	Year	Day	Hour	
<b>AE701J</b>	A	MAY	2017	01	J	May 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2017

#### NUTRENA

	Plant	Year	Day of Year	
<b>WB7121</b>	WB	7	121	May 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2017
<b>567121</b>	56	7	121	May 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2017

#### LONE STAR

	Plant Code	Day of Year	
<b>D121</b>	D	121	May 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2017

#### FEED STORAGE:

1. DO store feed in a well ventilated, cool (below 77°F), dry location away from direct sunlight. DO consider what the temperature will reach during the hottest summer months.
2. DO NOT store on a concrete floor – moisture will wick through the concrete into the bags. Store feed on pallets or similar barrier permitting air to circulate around and underneath.
3. DO protect feed from rodents and insects. Using chocolate as rodent bates can be more attractive than the feed. Consider galvanized or plastic containers for smaller feed amounts.
4. DO NOT mix old and new feed in the same container which can easily cross-contaminate new feed with mold, mildew, mites, and other pests.

<sup>1</sup> "General Feed FAQs: Feed Freshness," Nutrena World: Cargill, Inc., 2017 <<https://www.nutrenaworld.com/general-feed-faqs>>