**LESSON NOTE**

**FEED**

The food given to farm animals is called livestock feed or simply put ‘feed’. The livestock farmer must supply his animals with the appropriate quantity and quality of feed for:

a Growth

b Repair of worn out tissues

c Energy

d General well being of animals

e High production of animal produce such as milk, meat, and egg production

TYPES OF FEED

Animals are fed with different kind of feeds which vary in composition and uses. Hence, they are classified according to the quantity of fibre and moisture in the feed into four. These are:

1. Basal or energy feeds

2. Concentrates

3. Roughages

4. Supplements and additive

1. Basal or Energy Feeds

Basal feeds are feeds made to supply energy to the animals. They have crude fibre content less than 18%. They usually make up 60-90% of livestock ration. Examples are maize, rice, millet, guinea corn, roots and tubers like yam and cassava. Basal feed must be supplemented to meet the growth and maintenance need of farm animals.

2. Concentrates

These are feed or feed mixtures which provide all the primary dietary needs of farm animals. It may be either whole grain feeds or mixture of basal and supplement feed. Concentrates may be high in energy called energy concentrates or high in protein called protein concentrates. They have high nutritive value because they are important sources of energy, protein, minerals and vitamins. Examples are blood meal, bone meal, fish meal, groundnut cake, palm kernel cake, oyster shell cake, cottonseed cake and coconut cake. They are usually fed to monogastrics but can be used as supplements for some herbivores

3. Roughages

Roughages are feeds which are high in fibre content. They add bulk to animal feeds and are relatively less digestible. Roughages are poor in nutritive value hence, animals fed on roughage need supplements. Roughages are fed mostly to ruminants (cattle, sheep and goat). This is because other animals cannot digest hem.

4. Supplements and Additives

Feed supplements are added to the main feed to supply nutrients that are lacking in the main feed or diet of the animals. They may be supplied separately or mixed with the feeds. Feed supplement include:

Cotton seed cake,

Soya bean meal,

Groundnut cake,

Egg shell meal,

Oyster shell meal,

Bone meal,

Fish meal,

Lime stone,

Vitamins.

