



Understanding your pets requirements

According to The Merck Veterinary Manual – Table 31

Some major Nutrient Requirements For Rabbits

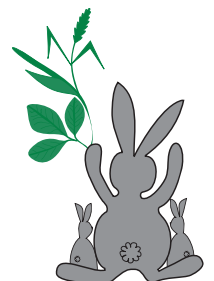
	Protein Total	Protein Digestible	Fat	Fibre	Digestible Carbohydrates	Total Digestible Nutrients
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Maintenance	12	9	1.5-2.0	22-25	40-50	50-60
Growth and Fattening	16	12	2.0-4.0	16-20	45-50	60-70
Pregnancy	15	11	2.0-3.0	18-22	45-50	55-65
Lactation with litter of (7 or 8)	17	13	2.5-3.5	15-20	45-50	65-75

The goal at Bourne Free Farms is to have quality grass hay with a minimum of 12% protein, which will meet the rabbits basic requirements for maintenance.

Use quality grass hay as the basis of your pet’s diet to improve their health, longevity, and quality of life.

Remember – Quality grass hay will:

- Provide the basic nutritional requirements.
- Help naturally with dental health (chewing process wears teeth down—this is a good thing since the teeth are continually growing.)
- Provide proper digestion process with the fibre content. (re:passing hair balls.)
- Reduce boredom for the rabbit with the chewing process by eating quality grass hay.





Understanding the nature of the plant growth cycle

The stage of growth or the maturity of the plant is very important for a number of reasons. As a plant matures, quality goes down in a couple of ways. The protein value will decrease, while the digestibility declines as well. Consumption is also reduced as the plant matures to the seed stage. Look at the following chart to see how Nature works over the growing season.

Change in values for Timothy grass as an example: 100% Dry Matter Basis

Timothy	Crude Protein	Crude Fibre	Neutral Detergent Fibre	Acid Detergent Fibre	TDN %
Hay, late Vegetative	>17%	27%	55%	29%	66%
Hay, early Bloom	15.0%	28%	61%	32%	61%
Hay, mid-Bloom	9.1%	31%	67%	36%	58%
Hay, full Bloom	8.1%	32%	68%	38%	56%
Hay, late Bloom	<7.8%	32.5%	70%	40%	54%

Source: Nutrient Requirements of Dairy Cattle, 6th. Edition & Feedstuffs, November 1989.

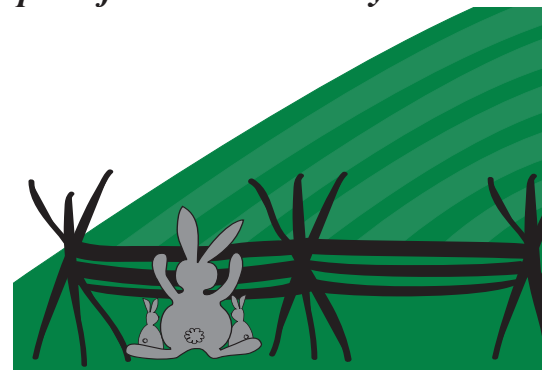
Nature is simply telling us that the grasses need to be harvested between Early and Mid-Bloom to obtain the *quality* necessary to meet your pets requirements.

Bourne Free Farms has been harvesting the hay crop at its peak for more than 20 years.

Guaranteed Analysis:

Min. Crude Protein	12%
Min. Crude Fat	1.5%
Min. Crude Fibre	40%
Max. Moisture	15%

NOTE: Herbicide, Pesticide, and Preservative FREE



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What grasses are growing in the fields at Bourne Free Farms?



- Creeping fescue
- Tall fescue
- Timothy
- Brome grass
- Orchard grass
- Reed Canary grass
- Ryegrass
- Bluegrass

NOTE: Mother Nature will determine the combination of the crop, depending on the soil type and drainage of the fields. Each variety of grass has preference for certain soil types and drainage conditions. Keep in mind the mixed grasses are growing on acres of rolling-meadows. The most important factor that will affect quality, is the time of harvest in regards to the plants stage of growth. That is the case for all the grasses.

What about alfalfa hay for the rabbit?

100% Alfalfa hay should only be provided to young bunnies that need protein for growth, and lactating rabbits that are feeding bunnies, as the extra protein and energy is needed for the milk production. Remember not to over feed alfalfa, just meet the pets requirements.

For a rabbit that only requires a maintenance diet, straight alfalfa provides too much protein and energy. The rabbit then must try and get rid of the excess protein by passing more urine. Excess energy is not good for the rabbit as well. A few stems of alfalfa is not a problem.

***Mixed grasses are the answer for your pet's healthy natural diet.
Bourne Free Farms, the best choice for your pet's well being!***

