Frequently Asked Questions

NEW INFORMATION FOR 2024

Have any new products been introduced?

Booster Berries Chicken Supplement won the 2024 Pet Innovation Award in Bird Food Product of the Year.

Strawberry Nutri-Berries are a limited edition product.

GENERAL INFORMATION ON LAFEBER PRODUCTS

How do I determine the expiration date of a Lafeber product?
Look for the “Best By” stamp or sticker on every Lafeber product.

What is the shelf life of an opened Lafeber product?
As long as the product has been closed properly and stored in a dry, cool place, items can be eaten until the Best Before date.

Do Lafeber products contain preservatives?
Formulated products like the Premium Daily Diet or pellets, Nutri-Berries, and Avi-Cakes are naturally preserved with a mixture of tocopherols and citric acid.

All hand-feeding formulas, including Nutri-Start and EmerAid, contain ethoxyquin **EXCEPT** for EmerAid Sustain Herbivore. These aforementioned foods are fed relatively short-term and therefore require longer shelf lives.

How does Lafeber insure quality control of its products?
Lafeber Company hand inspects all seeds and grains for cleanliness and freshness. Products are also created in small batches to ensure the best quality possible, and each batch is laboratory-tested.

PET BIRD FOODS

Are samples available?

Health and Nutrition Kits have been renamed Diet Conversion Kits. Designed to assist in converting companion birds to a balanced diet, kits are available for parakeets, cockatiels, conures, parrots, and macaws. Each kit includes samples of Tropical Fruit pellets, Classic Avi-Cakes, Tropical Fruit Nutri-Berries, and Classic Nutri-Berries as well as pellet conversion instructions.

Are seeds bad for birds?

An all-seed diet is bad when in is devoid of vitamins, minerals, and other essential nutrients. Birds with free choice of seed-only diets will be deficient in many nutrients, including amino acids, minerals, and vitamins and they will also obtain excess energy in the form of fat. Therefore, birds on all-seed diet can become both obese and malnourished.

Seeds in and of themselves are not bad for birds. Pellets have been considered an important component of the healthy pet bird diet since they were first developed by Dr. Lafeber, Sr. in 1975, and pellets are made from ground seeds and grains with vitamins and minerals added.

Visit "Nutritional Strategies for the Companion Parrot" by Susan Orosz, PhD, DVM, DABVP (Avian Practice) for additional information

Are Avi-Cakes nutritionally balanced?

Yes! Avi-Cakes for Parrots are a maintenance diet, and they are actually relatively low in energy, less than that of Nutri-Berries. Avi-Cakes for Small Birds are designed for all life stages.

What pet bird foods are recommended for breeding birds?

Lafeber Company products that support breeding include Avi-Cakes and Nutri-Berries for cockatiels, and Premium Daily Diet Granules or Pellets for finches, canaries, parakeets, and cockatiels.

What products are recommended for conversion to a healthy diet?

Lafeber Company Nutri-Berries, and Avi-Cakes are excellent choices to promote dietary conversion as both products are appetizing combinations of pellets, seeds, and grains.

What products are recommended for maintenance?
A number of Lafeber products may be fed for maintenance including Premium Daily Diet Pellets, Classic Nutri-Berries, Gourmet Nutri-Berries, Pellet-Berries, and/or Avi-Cakes.

Are Nutri-Berries nutritionally balanced?
Nutri-Berries consist of whole grains and seeds mixed with pellets to create a nutritionally balanced product. Nutri-Berries are designed to support maintenance and breeding. The pellets in the Nutri-Berry are similar to the Premium Daily Diet Pellet, however their vitamin/mineral content has been adjusted. All varieties of Nutri-Berries are essentially the same nutritionally.

See the "Nutritional Equivalency Report" by comparative nutritionist Kurt Klasing, PhD and Michelle Hawkins, VMD, DABVP (Avian Practice) for more information.

How should I store an opened bag of Nutri-Berries and Avi-Cakes?
Keep Nutri-Berries and Avi-Cakes in the resealable pouch in which they are sold. Do not refrigerate 'Berries or Avi-Cakes.

How do I keep Nutri-Berries and Avi-Cakes soft and pliable?
Store 'Berries and Avi-Cakes in the resealable pouch in which they are sold, and do not refrigerate. If products become hard or dry, briefly insert a moistened gauze 4x4 into the resealable container or wrap a serving size on a slightly dampened paper towel and microwave them for a few seconds. Placing a slice of apple in the container can also help keep both products fresh.

What products are available as treats?
Lafeber Company produces the popular pet bird treat Popcorn Nutri-Berries. Maintenance products such as Nutri-Berries or Avi-Cakes can also be offered as treats.

What are Nutri-An Cakes?

Nutri-An Cakes for Foraging and Weight Maintenance are therapeutic products sold only to veterinarians and veterinary hospitals. Nutri-An Cakes for Foraging and Weight Maintenance are a low-energy diet that promotes weight loss when fed as the sole diet.

How do Lafeber Company products promote foraging behavior?
Pelleted and extruded foods developed for companion birds provide balanced nutrition in a convenient form, however these diets by themselves do not provide sufficient physical or mental stimulation.

Seed-based diets promote normal behaviors such as beak and tongue manipulation of the various foods, sensation of textures for brain stimulation and foraging behaviors.

Lafeber Company manufactures diets that are balanced nutritionally and promote natural behaviors including manipulation and foraging. Foraging Lafeber diets include: Nutri-Berries, Avi-Cakes, Nutri-Meals, and Nutri-An Cakes.

Visit Fascinating Facts on Foraging and Enrichment authored by Yvonne van Zeeland, DVM, MVR, PhD, DECZM for additional information.