

## Labeling Poultry Grain Scratch Products

Scratches are usually composed of a mixture of cereal grains (i.e., corn, grain sorghum, wheat, etc.) that will not meet the nutrient requirements of chickens or other poultry when it is provided as the sole diet while complete and balanced feeds provide the right nutrient combinations to ensure optimum growth and productivity. Chickens normally require between 15 to 20% crude protein; however, grain scratches generally provide 7 to 10% crude protein.

### Guaranteed Analysis:

Complete and balance poultry diets are required to note specific guarantees.

These guarantees are as follows:

1. Minimum percentage of **Crude Protein**
2. Minimum percentage of **Lysine**
3. Minimum percentage of **Methionine**
4. Minimum percentage of **Crude Fat**
5. Minimum percentage of **Crude Fiber**
6. Minimum and maximum percentage of **Calcium**
7. Minimum percentage of **Phosphorus**
8. Minimum and maximum percentage of **Salt** (*if added*)
9. Minimum and maximum percentage of **Sodium** shall be guaranteed *only when total sodium exceeds that furnished by the maximum salt guarantee.*

Certain nutrient guarantees are not required for poultry grain scratches since it gives the false impression that these products are complete feeds or that they provide significant sources of certain nutrients. See example label below.

### Feeding Directions:

Adequate directions would state that the product is to be fed free choice, preferably an amount that chickens can consume in 10 minutes. It should also be stated that the product should be fed in addition to a complete and balanced feed for poultry.

### Please note:

Some manufacturers produce a feed with variations that are other than a “simple” scratch feed. These products may require additional guarantees. ***The use of the word “scratch” in the product name does not necessarily mean that these additional guarantees are not required.*** Here are some following examples that would involve including extra guarantees on the product label.

- If additional ingredients are added to the product such as vitamins or minerals.
- If the labeling claims the product is a complete and balanced feed.
- If the feeding directions do not state that another feed source is needed to provide adequate nutrition.

**Example Scratch Label:**

**Lex's 4 Grain Scratch**

A grain source for mature poultry

**Guaranteed Analysis**

Crude Protein (min.).....	9.0%
Crude Fat (min.) .....	4.5%
Crude Fiber (max.) .....	4.0%

**Ingredients:**

Cracked corn, wheat, milo, white millet

**Feeding Directions:**

Hand feed amount that mature  
poultry can consume in 10 minutes.  
Feed in addition to a complete feed containing  
necessary vitamins and minerals.  
Provide adequate water supply at all times.

**Manufactured by:**  
Lex's Feed LLC.  
Lexington, KY 40546

Net Wt 50lbs. (22.67 kg)

For additional information, please contact the Feed Program at the University of Kentucky Division of Regulatory Services at (859) 257-4496.

*This document has been revised from the original version authored by Meagan Davis in 2006.*