

Does Poultry Feed Need To Be Halal?

What is poultry feed? A poultry feed is a meal designed solely to feed poultry animals and as such should contain protein, minerals, vitamins, fats and other nutrients required for normal healthy growth. A typical poultry feed consists of meat & bone (50%), soy (44%), alfalfa meal (dehydrated), corn gluten meal, fat, ground yellow corn, oats, wheat and wheat middling. However, due to economic reasons, poultry animals are being fed with all kinds of things that the average consumer would find appalling such as animal meat, blood, road-kills and other ingredients that are totally not fit for consumption.

As a Muslim, one must be concerned what feed are being fed to the poultry animals. Most Muslims are not aware that according to the Halal classification, simply performing the proper method of poultry slaughtering according to Islamic Law is not enough. It goes way beyond that. A slaughtered poultry will only be considered Halal if and only if the poultry feed used to feed the animals is also Halal and as such poultry feed must be derived from Halal sources such as Amish feed**, organic feed** or vegetable feed. Absolutely no meat content should be allowed. Growth hormones and drugs to speed up the growth process should not be used as well as they have long-term adverse effects on the health of consumers.

** Amish feed is usually made from vegetable-based ingredients but the source must be determined. Although certified organic feed does not contain any animal-derived ingredients, due care must be taken since some organic feeds are made from crab and/or fish meat and thus should be avoided.