



2024

# California Commercial Feed Label Guidance

**NOTE:** *The California Department of Food and Agriculture's (CDFA) Safe Animal Feed Education Program (SAFE) guidance materials are provided for educational purposes only and do not guarantee adequacy of procedures or compliance with regulations.*



# California Commercial Feed Label Guidance

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# California Commercial Feed Label Guidance

## Introduction

Pursuant to California Commercial Feed Laws and Regulations every lot, parcel, or package of commercial feed distributed within the state of California must have affixed to it, or be accompanied by, a label. Additionally, there are specific requirements for the label, which vary based on type of commercial feed. This guide provides examples and requirements of a commercial feed label.

## Definitions

“Commercial feed” includes all materials which are intended for use as feed or for mixing in feed *except preparations which are manufactured and distributed for feeding to domestic pets, such as dogs, cats, and pet birds*. Feed for horses and poultry are always considered commercial feed. Feed for animals such as rabbits may be commercial feed if they are raised for human consumption but may not be if they are pet rabbits.

“Manufacture” means to grind, mix, or further process a commercial feed. This includes re-packaging. The manufacturer is responsible for labeling and placing its name and address on the feed label.

A “label” is a display of written, printed, or graphic matter upon, or affixed to, the container in which a commercial feed is distributed, or on the invoice or delivery slip which accompanies bulk commercial feed.

A “formula feed” means two or more feed ingredients, proportioned, mixed, and processed according to specifications.

“Feed ingredient” means each constituent substance making up a formula feed.

## Basic Requirements of a Commercial Feed Label

- A.** The product name, brand name, or trademark.
- B.** The guaranteed analysis, based on “as-fed/as-is” values, not adjusted for moisture.
- C.** Recognized official names of each ingredient.
- D.** Adequate directions, warnings and caution statements that may be necessary for the safe use of any feed.
- E.** The name and principal address of the manufacturer or person that is responsible for placing the commodity on the market.
- F.** Net weight or volume unless accompanied by a weight certificate.

See **Example Label # 1** for these requirements on a packaged feed label.

See **Example Label # 2** for these requirements on a bulk feed label.



# California Commercial Feed Label Guidance

## Example Label # 1. Basic requirements of a commercial feed label; packaged feed.

### **A.** Stock Mix

*Feed for cattle, sheep, and goats.*

### **B.** Guaranteed Analysis

Crude Protein (Min).....12.0%  
Crude Fat (Min).....4.0%  
Crude Fiber (Max).....6.0%  
Ash (Max).....5.0%

**C. Ingredients:** alfalfa pellets, rolled corn, rolled barley, cane molasses.

**D. Feeding Directions:** Feed 1.0 - 1.5% of bodyweight per head per day along with forage and salt.

**E.** Manufactured By:  
ABC Milling  
123 Somewhere St.  
Nowhere, CA 95601

**F.** 50 lbs (22.6 kg)



# California Commercial Feed Label Guidance

## Example Label # 2: Basic requirements of a commercial feed label; bulk feed.

**E. ABC Milling**  
123 Somewhere St.  
Nowhere, CA 95601

**000123456**

01/01/2022

2:38 PM

### **F. WEIGHMASTER CERTIFICATE**

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that the following described commodity was weighed, measured, or counted by a weighmaster, whose signature is on this certificate, who is a recognized authority of accuracy, as prescribed by Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 12700) of Division 5 of the California Business and Professions Code, administered by the Division of Measurement Standards of the California Department of Food and Agriculture.

Weighed for: *ABC Milling*

Delivered to: *This Farms*

Units: *Bulk Load-out*

Commodity: *Stock Mix*

Formula: *9876543-3*

Order Number: *000543*

Tractor License No. *123456*

Trailer License No. *019876*

Notes: *Compartments 1, 2, 3*

Driver: *John Doe*

Gross: *45200 lbs*

Tare: *26050 lbs*

**F. Net:** *19150 lbs*

Weighmaster Deputy:

*John Hancock*

### **PRODUCT LABEL**

#### **A. Stock Mix**

*Feed for cattle, sheep, and goats.*

#### **B. Guaranteed Analysis**

Crude Protein (Min).....12.0%

Crude Fat (Min).....4.0%

Crude Fiber (Max).....6.0%

Ash (Max).....5.0%

**C. Ingredients:** alfalfa pellets, rolled corn, rolled barley, cane molasses.

**D. Feeding Directions:** Feed 1.0 - 1.5% of bodyweight per head per day along with forage and salt.



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## Specific Requirements for Formula Feed Labels

This section outlines specific label requirements for formula feeds. Depending on the composition of a formula feed, there are additional label requirements which may apply.

### Requirements of the Guaranteed Analysis

**G.** Minimum percent crude protein

**H.** Minimum percent crude fat

**I.** Maximum percent crude fiber

**J.** Maximum percent ash\*

\*Ash may be substituted for:

Minimum and maximum percent calcium

Minimum percent phosphorous

Maximum percent sodium or salt

\*If the formula feed contains over 9.0 % ash, then the above-mentioned shall also be guaranteed on the label (if there are ingredients which contain those nutrients).

**K.** Maximum percentage of moisture when moisture exceeds 15.0%.

**L.** Maximum percentage of sodium if sodium is over 0.5%.

**M.** Numerical value for any special quality claimed on the label, including vitamin potency, amino acid content, or mineral content.

**N.** Percentage of inert materials contained in a formula feed (such as bentonite), must be guaranteed if they singly or collectively make up more than 1.0%.

**O.** All guarantees shall be in percent unless expressly provided to the contrary by California commercial feed law and regulations.

**P.** Additional requirements when feed contains over 0.3 ppm added selenium, contains non-protein nitrogen, any medication, animal drugs, or feed through pesticides.



# Commercial Feed Label Guarantee Guidance

## Requirements of the Ingredients Statement

**Q.** The “recognized official name” of each ingredient in order of decreasing amounts present must be listed on the formula feed label. Recognized official names are defined in California Code of Regulations, Title 3, (3 CCR) Article 14.

**R.** Maximum percentage of low nutrition ingredients in a formula feed if they singly or collectively make up more than 1.0 percent.

**S.** Trademarked products can be in the ingredient listing followed by parenthesis with the ingredients in the product listed in decreasing amounts present.

**T.** Collective Terms: Collective terms are not allowed in California, except for “grains”, however, when one or more grains are named, no substitution shall be made. The ingredients which may be included as grains are listed in 3 CCR Article 14.

The term “roughage products” may be used as an ingredient name only in labelling medicated, mineral, and vitamin premixes if the labeled recommended use level of the premix in the total ration is specified to be one percent or less of the total ration. The ingredients which may be included as “roughage products” are listed in 3 CCR Article 14.

**V.** Misleading and indefinite statements concerning ingredients and value of ingredients of the feed are prohibited. Included within this prohibition is the use of such terms as “better”, “high”, “increased”, “greater”, “low”, “decreased”, “less”.

*See **Example Label 3** for demonstration of some of these additional requirements for labeling formula feeds.*



## California Commercial Feed Label Guidance

**Example Label # 3: Additional requirements and options for a commercial feed label; formula feeds.**

### **M.** 123 Pig Starter *with Vitamins A, D, and E*

*For starter pigs weighing 10 to 50 lbs.*

#### Guaranteed Analysis

<b>G.</b>	Crude Protein (Min).....	20.0%
<b>O.</b>	Lysine (Min).....	1.2%
<b>H.</b>	Crude Fat (Min).....	4.0%
<b>I.</b>	Crude Fiber (Max).....	4.0%
<b>J.</b>	Calcium (Min).....	0.8%
<b>J.</b>	Calcium (Max).....	1.3%
<b>J.</b>	Phosphorous (Min).....	0.65%
<b>O.</b>	Salt (Min).....	0.35%
<b>J.</b>	Salt (Max).....	0.5%
	Selenium (Max).....	0.3 ppm
<b>M, O.</b>	Vitamin A (Min).....	2,000 I.U./ lb.
<b>M, O.</b>	Vitamin D (Min).....	2,000 I.U./ lb.
<b>M, O.</b>	Vitamin E (Min).....	2,000 I.U. / lb.

**Ingredients:** **T.** Grains, Wheat Mill Run, Soybean Meal, Dried Whey, Animal Fat, **S.** Best-Ever Vitamin BACON-PAK™ (Vitamin A Acetate, Cholecalciferol (source of Vitamin D3), L-Lysine, Riboflavin Supplement, Thiamine Mononitrate, Vitamin E Supplement, Ethylenediamine Dihydriodide), Calcium Chloride, **R.** Rice Hulls (not more than 2%), Ferrous Sulfate, Zinc Oxide, Copper Sulfate, Manganous Oxide, Choline Chloride, Salt.

**Feeding Directions:** Feed as a complete ration to starter pigs weighing 10 to 50 lbs.

**WARNING:** CONSUMPTION OF THIS PRODUCT BY SHEEP MAY RESULT IN COPPER TOXICITY.

Manufactured By:  
ABC Milling  
123 Somewhere St.  
Nowhere, CA 95601

50 lbs (22.6 kg)





# California Commercial Feed Label Guidance

## Labeling for Special Purposes

Other common circumstances in which labeling requirements may vary from the standard label statements.

- I. **Liquid Feed.** In addition to the above requirements, liquid formula feeds (molasses mixes), must include on the label the minimum percentage of total sugar expressed as invert and maximum percentage of moisture or the minimum percentage of dry matter. Guarantees for crude fat or crude fiber are not required in liquid feed when there is less than one percent of either constituent.
- II. **Drug, Mineral, or Vitamin Primary Purpose.** The guaranteed analysis requirements may be replaced with guarantees pertinent to special purpose commercial feeds and feed ingredients when the feed is sold primarily for drug, mineral, or vitamin content. For example, a vitamin premix which contains no protein or fat does not need to guarantee crude protein or crude fat; however, should include a guarantee for the vitamin content.

## Special Caution Statements and Requirements

When the following ingredients are included in a formula feed, or circumstances exist, additional label statements must be included on the label.

### Selenium

Commercial feeds containing more than 0.3 parts per million (ppm) added selenium shall include the following on the label:

- I. A guaranteed analysis statement for the minimum and the maximum ppm of selenium.
- II. Feeding and/or mixing instructions that bear adequate directions for the safe and permitted use of a feed containing added selenium, including the maximum permitted levels of use for a specific species. Maximum permitted use levels per species include:
  - In complete feed for chickens, turkeys, swine, sheep, cattle, ducks, horses, goats, llamas, alpacas and bison not to exceed 0.3 part per million.
  - Feed supplements for limit feeding for beef cattle, bison, and horses at a level not to exceed an intake of three (3) milligrams per head per day.
  - Feed supplements for limit feeding for sheep, goats, llamas, and alpacas at a level not to exceed an intake of 0.7 milligrams per head per day.
  - Salt-mineral mixtures for free-choice feeding of beef cattle, bison, and horses up to 120 parts per million in a mixture for free-choice feeding at a rate not to exceed an intake of three (3) milligrams per head per day.



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- Salt-mineral mixtures for free-choice feeding for sheep, goats, llamas, and alpacas up to 90 parts per million in a mixture for free-choice feeding at a rate not to exceed an intake of 0.7 milligrams per head per day.
- III. The statement “Caution: Follow label directions: Feeding added selenium at levels in excess of 0.3 ppm in the total diet is prohibited.”
- Selenium ingredients and premixes intended for the further manufacture of feed may use the statement “Caution: Follow label directions. The addition to feed of higher levels of this premix containing selenium is not permitted.”

### Non-Protein Nitrogen

Formula feed containing non-protein nitrogen products shall be labeled as follows:

- IV. The maximum percent of equivalent crude protein from nonprotein nitrogen shall appear immediately below the guarantee for the minimum percent of crude protein.
- V. If the commercial feed, including liquid feed, contains more than 8.75 percent equivalent crude protein from all forms of nonprotein nitrogen, or if the equivalent crude protein from all forms of nonprotein nitrogen exceeds one-third of the total crude protein, the label shall bear a warning statement followed by feeding directions for the safe use of the feed. The warning statement shall be in prominent bold type against a contrasting background.

#### **WARNING EXCESSIVE CONSUMPTION MAY RESULT IN ADVERSE TOXIC REACTION USE ONLY AS DIRECTED**

- VI. Directions for use must be stated in a manner that when followed correctly will prevent toxic reaction from over-consumption. The directions shall include the following:

“Consumption should be carefully controlled until animals become adjusted to the feed. Additional care should be exercised with starved, stressed, or debilitated animals.”

Recommended daily intake levels shall be given, as well as the statement that all manufacturer's directions for use must be followed carefully.

See **Example Label 4** for an example of labeling feed containing added selenium over 0.3 ppm and non-protein nitrogen.

### Prohibited Mammalian Proteins

The manufacture, distribution, and use of commercial feed containing protein derived from prohibited mammalian tissues shall comply with the requirements of the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 21, Part 589. 2000. This includes the label statement:

**“DO NOT FEED TO CATTLE OR OTHER RUMINANTS”.**



# California Commercial Feed Label Guidance

## Example Label # 4. Requirements for selenium and non-protein nitrogen.

### 123 Beef Supplement

*Pasture extender for beef cattle*

#### Guaranteed Analysis

Crude Protein (Min).....	14.0%
<b>IV.</b> Crude Protein Equivalent from Non-protein Nitrogen (Max).....	16.0%
Crude Fat (Min).....	2.0%
Crude Fiber (Max).....	10.0%
Calcium (Min).....	11.0%
Calcium (Max).....	8.0%
Phosphorous (Min).....	none added
Salt (Min).....	11.0%
Salt (Max).....	13.2%
Potassium (Min).....	0.4%
<b>I.</b> Selenium (Min).....	5 ppm
<b>I.</b> Selenium (Max).....	7.5 ppm
Vitamin A (Min).....	5,000 IU/lb

**Ingredients:** calcium carbonate, sodium chloride, ground almond shell (Max 20%), urea, magnesium oxide, soybean oil, copper lysine complex, zinc methionine complex, manganese methionine complex, cobalt glucoheptonate, zinc sulfate, manganese sulfate, copper sulfate, vitamin E supplement, sodium selenite, vitamin A supplement, vitamin D Supplement, calcium iodate.

**V. WARNING:** EXCESSIVE CONSUMPTION MAY RESULT IN ADVERSE TOXIC REACTION  
USE ONLY AS DIRECTED

**III. Caution:** Follow label directions: Feeding added selenium at levels in excess of 0.3 ppm in the total diet is prohibited.

**CONSUMPTION OF THIS PRODUCT BY SHEEP MAY RESULT IN COPPER TOXICITY.**

**II, VII. Feeding Directions:** Directions for use must be followed carefully. Feed at a rate of 1 lb. per head per day. This feed contains 6 ppm selenium, this feeding rate will provide 2.7 milligrams per head per day and not exceed 0.3 ppm in the total diet. Consumption should be carefully controlled until animals become adjusted to the feed. Additional care should be exercised with starved, stressed or debilitated animals.

Manufactured By:  
ABC Milling  
123 Somewhere St.  
Nowhere, CA 95601

50 lbs (22.6 kg)



# California Commercial Feed Label Guidance

## Drugs, Antibiotics and Veterinary Feed Directives

Refer to CDFA Safe Animal Feed Education (SAFE) [Medicated Feed Label Guidance](#).

## Single Ingredient Feeds

Single ingredients, such as corn, almond hulls, and soybean meal, have different labeling requirements than formula feeds. Just as the recognized official ingredient name must be used in the ingredients list of a formula feed, the recognized official ingredient name must be used on the label for a single ingredient feed. Recognized official ingredient names are found in 3 CCR Article 14. The definitions provide a description of the product, certain specification the products must meet, as well as label statements and guarantees that must be on the label.

- A single ingredient product using the recognized official name defined in 3 CCR Article 14 is not required to have an ingredient statement.
- The labeling for a single ingredient shall contain all the same basic label requirements and components of the guaranteed analysis, except when:
  - There are additional specifications for the guaranteed analysis included in the product definition in 3 CCR Article 14.
  - The guarantees are replaced with guarantees pertinent to the purpose of the ingredient, for example, mineral content of a mineral ingredient instead of crude protein, crude fat, and crude fiber.
- A single ingredient is not required to guarantee maximum percentage of ash unless it is specified by definition in 3 CCR Article 14.
- Maximum percentage of moisture shall be guaranteed when moisture exceeds 15.0 percent, or when otherwise required by 3 CCR Article 14.

The following example labels are designed to accompany a weight certificate which already contains the weight of product and address of manufacturer. These types of labels are commonly stapled to the weight certificate, printed on it, or made into a stamp and stamped onto the weight certificate. All guarantees must be on an “as-is” basis, NOT a dry matter basis.



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## Example Labels # 5. Single ingredient labels.

These examples demonstrate only the recognized official name and guaranteed analysis which would accompany a bulk delivery weight certificate and bill of lading with all other requirements of a label. **Items marked with (\*) denote specific label requirements of 3 CCR Article 14.**

### Almond Hulls

Crude Protein (Min).....3.5%  
Crude Fat (Min).....1.5%  
\*Crude Fiber (Max).....15%  
\*Ash (Max).....9%  
\*Moisture (Max).....13%

### Almond Hull and Shell

Crude Protein (Min).....3.5%  
Crude Fat (Min).....1.5%  
\*Crude Fiber (Max).....29%  
\*Ash (Max).....9%  
\*Moisture (Max).....13%

### Alfalfa Pellets

\*Crude Protein (Min).....15%  
\*Crude Fiber (Max).....30%  
Crude Fat (Min).....1.7%

### Whole Cottonseed

Crude Protein (Min).....15%  
Crude Fiber (Max).....30%  
\*Moisture (Max).....13%  
\*Ash (Max).....7%  
Crude Fat (Min).....14%  
\*Free Fatty Acids in Oil (Max).15%

### Brewer's Wet Grains

Crude Protein (Min).....4%  
Crude Fiber (Max).....7%  
Crude Fat (Min).....1%  
\*Moisture (Max).....80%

### Brewer's Liquid Yeast

\*Crude Protein (Min).....3.5%  
Crude Fiber (Max).....1.0%  
Crude Fat (Min)..... 0.1%  
\*Moisture (Max)..... 90%

### Vegetable Oil

\*Total Fatty Acids (Min).....90%  
\*Unsaponifiable Matter (Max).....2%  
\*Insoluble Impurities (Max).....1%  
\*Free Fatty Acids (Max).....1%  
\*Moisture (Max).....0.5%



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### Condensed Whey Permeate

*Total Whey Product Solids (Min).....	12%
*Crude Protein (Min).....	1%
*Equivalent Crude Protein from Non-Protein Nitrogen (Max).....	0.5%
*Lactose (Min).....	25%
*Ash (Max).....	5%
Moisture (Max).....	88%

### Rice Mill By-Product

Crude Protein (Min).....	9%
*Crude Fiber (Max).....	30%
Crude Fat (Min).....	4%
*Ash (Max).....	16%

### Dried Buttermilk

Crude Protein (Min).....	30%
*Moisture (Max).....	8%
*Ash (Max).....	13%
*Milk Fat (Min).....	5%
Using the Roese-Gottlieb method	

### Rice Bran

Crude Protein (Min).....	10%
*Crude Fiber (Max).....	13%
Crude Fat (Min).....	10%

### Wet Citrus Pulp

Crude Protein (Min).....	1%
Crude Fiber (Max).....	2%
Crude Fat (Min).....	0.5%
Moisture (Max).....	80%

### Wet Food Processing Waste (Tomato Byproduct)

Crude Protein (Min).....	5%
Crude Fiber (Max).....	30%
Crude Fat (Min).....	4%
Moisture (Max).....	80%

### Dried Tomato Pomace

Crude Protein (Min).....	15%
Crude Fiber (Max).....	40%
Crude Fat (Min).....	5%