Lesson 5.2 Glossary

A

Amino acids – Organic substances from which organisms build proteins.

C

Carbohydrate – Any of certain organic chemical compounds of carbon, hydrogen, and oxygen, which include sugars and starches. Formed in plants by photosynthesis, carbohydrates make up a large part of animal feed.

D

Diet – The type and amount of food habitually ingested by a person or an animal.

F

Fat – Any food product: e.g., lard or vegetable shortening, which is derived from animal or vegetable fats.

M

Mineral – A chemical compound or element of inorganic origin.

N

Nutrient – A substance that favorably affects the nutritive processes of the body; a food. In stock feeding, any feed constituent or group of feed constituents of the same general composition that aids in the support of life, as water, proteins, carbohydrates, fats, minerals, and vitamins.

Nutrition – The sum of the processes by which an organism utilizes the chemical components of food through metabolism to maintain the structural and biochemical integrity of its cells, thereby ensuring its viability and reproductive potential.

Nutritional requirements – Number and quality of complex organic compounds and mineral salts in the diet necessary for optimal development and reproduction of an animal.

P

Protein – Any of a large number of complex, organic compounds of amino acids which has a high molecular weight and is an essential part of all living organisms. Proteins consist largely of carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, and oxygen; many contain sulfur, and some also contain iron and phosphorus. They constitute a large portion of the protoplasm, and are obtained from foods such as lean meats, and from vegetables such as beans.

R

Ration – The feed allowed an animal during a 24-hr period regardless of whether it is fed at one time or at different times.

V

Vitamin – An organic substance that performs specific and necessary functions in relatively small concentrations in an organism. Required for normal growth and maintenance, vitamins are not utilized as building units for the structure of the organism and do not furnish energy, but are essential for the transformation of energy and for the regulation of the metabolism of the organisms.

W

Water – H_2O; hydrogen oxide; although the liquid may contain associated molecules. The most valuable natural resource and the most limiting factor in crop production.