Purpose: To demonstrate the importance of properly labeling feeds.*

Materials Needed

- Clear jars with lids (one jar for each “feed”)
- Urea
- Labels for jars
- Ground limestone
- Salt
- Tempera paint, gray and blue
- Sugar
- Copper sulfate
- White dishwashing detergent powder

Steps

1. Fill each jar halfway full with one of the substances.
2. Label the jars with letters and make a key for each feed ingredient.
3. Set out two jars that have similar-looking substances and ask the youth to identify what is in each jar (or set out all the jars in pairs around the room and have the youth rotate to each pair of jars).

Remembering What Is Important

Proper storage of feeds is important in regard to animal health. Improperly stored feeds can easily become contaminated with feed and nonfeed materials that can be detrimental to animal health. Walk through some of the following questions with the youth, asking thought-provoking questions so they understand why it is so important to have proper labels on their animals’ feed. Have each of them come up with a short plan explaining how they will store and label their feed at home.

- Many feeds can look similar to other feed and nonfeed materials. What could happen if you fed the wrong ingredient to your animal?
- What should you do when you lose the label for a feed or when you don’t know what feed is in a particular bag?
- It is important to store feedstuffs in a dedicated area in order to prevent accidental or purposeful contamination. What kinds of things could contaminate improperly stored feeds? What effects might these contaminants have?

*This activity has been developed to supplement the information that can be found in the National Pork Board Good Production Practice No. 6: Properly store, label, and account for all drugs and medicated feeds.