

Nom Noms for Rex

Lesson Plan for Middle School Agriculture

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OVERVIEW & PURPOSE

Purpose of this lesson is to evaluate rabbit nutritional needs.

EDUCATION STANDARDS

1. MSAGED6-6: Demonstrate an understanding of the area of animal science.
2. MSAGED7-6: Critique the area of agricultural mechanics.
3. MSAGED8-17: The student will demonstrate the application of agriscience in agricultural animal research and production.
4. AFNR-BAS-9: Define major components of the animal industry and outline the development of the resulting products, services, and careers.

OBJECTIVES

1. Research nutritional needs of rabbits.
2. Research materials/ingredients/food for rabbits.
3. Accurate measurements.
4. Evaluate recipes and determine which will be best for our rabbit and resources.

MATERIALS NEEDED

1. Recipe Ingredients
2. Computers/Research Materials

ACTIVITY

After Spending a day or two lesson on animal importance and how animals impact agriculture as a whole, and possibly completed a breed project on rabbit breeds we would complete this activity.

Depending upon grade/ability level, students should be guided to research rabbit needs then guided to research recipes for rabbit snacks/treats. When found evaluate which would best meet the nutritional needs of the rabbit. For lower level groups, provide the recipes for evaluation as a group.

Discussion Questions that can be used with group evaluation:

- What does a rabbit need to eat?
- What do they not need to eat?
- Can they have too much of a type of food?
- Should treats be given instead of regular food?
- Does this recipe meet at least one of the requirements of our rabbit?
- Is there any ingredient we should be cautious of?
- Is there too much sugar in this recipe?
- Do you think the rabbit will like this snack?

When recipe is chosen, plan what ingredients are needed and how to measure them. Next day have students make snacks in groups/as a class and test if the rabbit likes them.

Vocabulary/Important Terms

- Nutritional Needs
- Fiber
- Protein
- Vitamins
- Measurements
- Mix
- Grind
- Puree
- Knead

Possible Recipes

Katie's Smack Snacks for Rabbits

1. You will need: 1 c. rolled oats, finely ground (coffee grinder works best)
2. 1/4 c. rabbit pellets, finely ground
3. 2 medium-sized bunches of parsley
4. 1/2 of a carrot
5. 1/2 of a banana
6. 1/4 c. + 1 tbsp. Water

Preheat oven to 325 degrees and line a baking sheet or stone with wax paper (baking stones actually work best). Grind pellets and oats down to a powder and set aside. Puree parsley, carrot, banana and water. This should become fairly liquefied, so you can add more or less water depending on the consistency. In a bowl, mix puree and dry ingredients. Knead until a stiff dough is formed. Dough will be somewhat sticky. Place ball of dough between 2 sheets of wax paper and roll to about 1/8 – 1/4 of an inch thick. Cut into small squares and place on baking sheet. Bake for about 30 minutes (don't let them get too brown), then turn off the heat and let them sit in the warm oven for at least an hour. (The last step is really important because letting them sit in a warm oven is what dries them out so they'll keep for a really long time and not grow mold!)

Carrot Cookies

1. 1/2 Cup Oatmeal
2. 1/2 Cup Flour
3. 1/2 Cup Ground Carrot
4. 1/2 Cup Water

Add All ingredients in a bowl. Mix until smooth. Roll into small balls about the size of a ping pong ball and place them on a non-stick or greased cookie sheet. Bake at 350°f for 15 minutes. Allow to cool for at least an hour before feeding to rabbit. Refrigerate extra cookies.

Bunny Biscuits

1. 1 Pureed Carrot
2. ½ Mashed Banana
3. 1 Teaspoon Honey
4. ¼ Cup Rabbit Pellets
5. ¼ Cup Oatmeal

Using grinder or blender, grind pellets and oatmeal into powder. Add all ingredients to a bowl and mix well. Knead dough with your hands for 1-2 minutes until well incorporated. Roll dough into ¼ inch layer. Cut dough into squares or shapes using small cookie cutters or knife. Bake at 325°F for 30 minutes. Then turn off the heat and allow to sit in the warm oven for about an hour. Allow to cool before giving to rabbit. Refrigerate extra.

Rabbit Treats

1. 1 Cup Oatmeal
2. 1 Cup Rabbit Pellets (Can use Guinea Pig Pellets for GP Treats)
3. ¾ Cup Vegetable broth
4. 6 Tablespoons Olive Oil
5. 2 Tablespoons honey

Mix all ingredients in a bowl. Roll Out and cut into shapes. Bake at 350°F for 20 minutes. Turn off oven and let cool for an hour before giving them to your rabbit.

Cheerio Mix

Mix a handful of cheerios, sunflower seeds, rabbit pellets, and dry oats in a bowl and serve.

Fruit Snacks

1. Cabbage Leaf
2. 5 Blueberries
3. 4 Baby Carrots
4. 2 Cherrie
5. 3 Grapes

Put the cabbage leaf at the bottom of a bowl. Slice carrots very thin, chop cherries (removing and discarding the pits), slice grapes, and add blueberries. Serve.

Bunny Cookies

1. 1 Cup Rabbit Pellets
2. 1 Cup Flour
3. $\frac{3}{4}$ Cup Milk
4. $\frac{1}{2}$ Cup Oatmeal
5. $\frac{1}{4}$ Cup Molasses
6. $\frac{1}{2}$ Cup Raisins
7. $\frac{1}{2}$ Cup Cheerios
8. 1 Mashed Banana

Grind pellets and sift with flour into bowl. Add remaining ingredients and mix well. Roll into balls and place on a cookie sheet. Bake for 15-18 minutes in a 350°F Oven.

Sources for the above recipes:

<https://www.wikihow.com/Make-Rabbit-Treats>

<https://jojodabunneh.weebly.com/homemade-treats.html>

There are so many other recipes out there. Please, use your own judgement on what recipe you choose. Know that anything high in sugar should be consumed in moderation by your rabbit and used as a treat only. Do not use these recipes to replace regular balanced rabbit diet.