Biobalanced livestock feeding systems

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There are five major problems causing waste in intensive livestock production systems: (a) the high energy cost of milling, mixing and pelleting feeds; (b) environmental pollution from excess nutrients in manure; (c) overuse of high protein feeds; (d) the belief that vitamin and mineral and other supplements must be fed; and (e) the cost of changing to more welfare friendly systems.

A model was developed and its components tested in a series of feeding trials with laying hens.

The results show that feed costs and wasted nutrients can be reduced by careful formulation of diets that meet the nutrient requirements of the animal but do not contain mineral, vitamin, amino acid or yolk pigment supplements. These diets also help to decrease pollution (6).