From the day in 1968 when Wal Zoontjens began pigeon racing as an independent entrant in Riel (NL), he has always held a position among the champions.

His father Jan Zoontjens had been looking into better husbandry methods from as early as the nineteen-thirties. The book ‘Nutrition, vitamins and pigeons’ by Arie van den Hoek served as his guide. And his research led him to the idea of sieving the feed mixes that were commercially available at the time. He fed the finer feed at the beginning of the week and the coarser part, comprising various types of maize and legumes during the last days before basketing.

His vision formed the basis for the mixes that Wal Zoontjens developed in collaboration with BEYERS Technical Consultants, and which they released in 1989 for use by pigeon fanciers all around the World, BEYERS PREMIUM WAL ZOONTJENS YELLOW and BEYERS ZOONTJENS BLUE ‘The unique and authentic one with the grand master’s signature!’ Many others continue trying to copy Zoontjens Yellow but they never come close to the original, which combines a selection of the best quality and perfectly cleaned grains in an ideally balanced mix.

However, time does not stand still and dietary requirements for modern pigeon racing have changed dramatically since 1989, especially when one considers the races that fancier’s pigeons fly weekly nowadays, alternating between middle-distance and one-day races. For that reason, and in consultation with Wal, in 2011 the decision was made to take Zoontjens Blue off the market and to replace it in the feed plan with sport mixes that are richer in fats. BEYERS PREMIUM WAL ZOONTJENS YELLOW remains an ideal basic feed mix for use with every feed plan.

**BEYERS PREMIUM WAL ZOONTJENS YELLOW**

- Ideal basis for feeding systems in combination with the more rich in fat BEYERS mixtures.
- **Middle and long distance**: in combination with PREMIUM SUPER WIDOWHOOD (optionally supplemented with PREMIUM SUPER ENERGY) so that the pigeons are able to bear a greater burden and can also be basketed between the biweekly day-long flights.
- **Long distance**: a perfect mixture for the rest period between two long distance flights and can be combined with the GALAXY LONG DISTANCE TT in preparation of the flight.

**Ingredients**: extra white dari, white wheat, safflower, vetches, extra red sorghum, lentils, kadjang idjoe, buckwheat, paddy rice.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Carbohydrates</th>
<th>50,9 %</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Crude protein</td>
<td>14,4 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crude fat</td>
<td>5,6 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crude fibre</td>
<td>7,2 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crude ash</td>
<td>2,1 %</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**BEYERS PREMIUM SUPER ENERGY**

- A high-quality and energy rich mix as supplement during the racing season.
- Provides the pigeons with extra energy in preparation of long distances.
- Added the last feeds before basketing. The number of feeds depends on the difficulty and distance of the race.

**Ingredients**: toasted soya, brown rice, peeled sunflower seeds, safflower, hemp seed, peeled oats, rapeseed, linseed.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Carbohydrates</th>
<th>30,6 %</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Crude protein</td>
<td>21,9 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crude fat</td>
<td>23,6 %</td>
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25 kg
FEEDING PROGRAM – RACING SYSTEM WAL ZOONTJENS

The following feed schemes show how Wal feeds and cares for his pigeons to ensure that they perform well under his racing system focused on one-day races with widowers, both in preparation for and during the sports season. Like most top pigeon fanciers, he observes the pigeons daily and balances the feed to their needs.

Wal has created a sports-energy mix comprising equal parts of the following BEYERS sports mixes: PREMIUM KOOPMAN ALL-IN-ONE, GALAXY LONG DISTANCE TT, ORIGINAL SPORT and ORIGINAL ENZYMIX ENERGY. The pigeons get a feed of this sport-energy mix when they come home to the loft and in the evenings during performance build-up sessions. The build-up feeds in preparation for a flight are always taken away after ten minutes.

NORMAL WIDOWHOOD – WIDOW COCKS

Speed (weekly with 1 night in basket, > 80 km & <300 km)
The hen pigeons stay in the widowhood run during the week, and they are only basketed at the time of preparatory short sprint (vitesse) flights.

Short & Heavy Middle Distance (weekly with 2 nights in basket, > 300 km & < 500 km)
Long Distance (weekly with 2 nights in basket, > 500 km & < 700 km)

In the morning of the day they are basketed (Thursday), the pigeons get a half-ration of PREMIUM WAL ZOONTJENS YELLOW. This allows giving the widowers a build-up feed of sports-energy mix and SUPER PREMIUM ENERGY up to 2 hours before basketing. Build-up feeding for the long-distance flights starts from Tuesday and the mix is supplemented with 5% GOLDCORN KOOPMAN to increase the fat content. During the resting week in preparation for a distance flight, the widowers get 100% PREMIUM WAL ZOONTJENS YELLOW.

WINTER PERIOD- BREEDING - YOUNG PIGEONS

Speed (weekly with 1 night in basket, > 80 km & <300 km)
The young pigeons get the 1/3-1/3-1/3 composition for flights up to 300 km. For flights longer than 300 km the barley is left out during the last few days and the birds get 1/2 Breeding Cribbs and 1/2 Zoontjens Basis Yellow.

RACING SYSTEM: FOCUS AT LONG DISTANCE AND NORMAL WIDOWHOOD

The widowers get a handful of feed in their tray twice a day. If cocks are still hungry during the week, they get a supplement of small amounts of barley on the floor until they are satisfied.

Wal prefers to basket the cocks with their crops three-quarters full. If they do not eat enough food in the afternoon of the basketing day, the feeding system was not optimal that week and the cocks reached their peak too early. The cocks should be in their peak condition on the Saturday, when they are released. That is the reason why Wal wants them to have a three-quarter filled crop.

Young pigeons
The focus with the young pigeons, as with the old hens, is on longer distances (up to 450 km). They are kept under blackout for six weeks from the beginning of April, to keep their plumage in good condition. During the first flights, the young pigeons are kept together, so that many couples form that will start to nest in the straw. Then the young pigeons are raced using the sliding door system.