Managing Temporary Stock Shortages in form-U-net

Q. Is there a way to temporarily stop an item from being used in blends in form-U-net? For example, occasionally, a fertilizer item is out of stock and, therefore, should not be included in a blend.

A. There are multiple ways in form-U-net to temporarily prevent items from being used in blends.

1. Remove the item from the Material Group until it is in stock again. This can be removed from the *Material Groups / Edit Selected Material Group / My Group Settings / Products in Group* tab.

2. On the *Material Groups / Edit Selected Material Group / Edit Activities* window, set the *Upper Bound* of the item to *0*, and select the **Save Changes** button. When the item is back in stock, return to *Edit Activities*, and change the *Upper Bound* to *Inf*.

3. Similar to the above, another method uses *Edit Activities*. Select the *Prompt Up* option for the affected item and save. Return to the *Formulation* page. The item displays in the *Formulation* grid with a less than symbol, '<', and a '++' in the quantity. Changing the '++' to a *0* in a formulation disallows that item from being used.

4. Because form-U-net uses algorithms to implement Least Cost Formulation, the cost of the item may be increased to a point it is no longer selected as being the least cost. This assumes there are other items available in the Material Group to provide the requested nutrients.