

Reducing Feed Cost – Check List

Many aspects of reducing feed costs can come directly from your dairy's execution of protocols. Validate if there are opportunities to successfully implement on-farm management tactics to lower your feed cost.

- Consistently test forage** and ingredients dry matter (especially when weather changes)
- Adjust for accurate cow numbers** per group at each mixing
- Manage refusals** – Calculate weigh back at feed bunk and clean out daily
- Calculate accurate daily Dry Matter Intake (DMI)**
- Schedule pushups to maximize intake** (every 30 mins for 2 hours after feeding and then every hour)
- Evaluate ingredient shrink monthly** (wind, rain, birds, rodents, spills, equipment tracks, molds/spoilage, etc.)
- Calibrate TMR mixer quarterly**
- Evaluate storage** (bunk face management, piles covered, packing)
- Create a forage record analysis log** to evaluate and improve forage quality
- Evaluate equipment used** (bucket size, plastic management, etc.)
- Follow the commodity markets** continually and grasp potential booking opportunities

When looking to reduce feed cost and incorporate economical solutions turn to your nutritionist. Our team at Cargill is here to help with valuable insight on:

- ✓ Feed sampling
- ✓ Ration balancing (least cost)
- ✓ Nutrient & additive profiling
- ✓ Forage quality & kernel processing
- ✓ Calculating component efficiency
- ✓ Conducting inventory calculation
- ✓ Total Mixed Ration (TMR) audit
- ✓ Penn State Evaluation tool

