

Reducing Feed Cost Checklist

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

Review and your feed management strategy by checking the boxes for the below protocols that are implemented on your dairy:

- 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 your 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 nutrition solutions turn to your nutritionist. Our team at Cargill is here to help with valuable insight on:

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

