

Penn State **Extension**

Certified Feed Management Planners' Required Documents for Submission to NRCS - **DAIRY**

Benchmark and Quarterly Report Plans:

- Opportunity Checklist (benchmark only)
- Feed Management Checklist (benchmark only)
- Feed Management Template (benchmark only)
- Penn State Excel spreadsheets or other means for monitoring the following **AND** supporting documents: (benchmark and quarterly)

- 1. Actual vs. Formulated (TMR fed) TMR analyses
Dry matter intake
Protein (Component fed) Grain mix, mineral mix, and
Phosphorus forage/pasture analyses

Formulated rations for all groups. For component fed groups, include the formulated grain or mineral mixes.
- 2. Dry matter intake efficiency Bulk tank milk weights and components or DHIA. List dates that milk weights and components are representing.
- 3. MUNs Bulk tank or DHIA. List dates that MUNs are representing.
- 4. Fecal phosphorus P as a percent of dry matter and manure analyses for the various groups.

Items 1-4 should be submitted each time.

Ration adjustments must be specific and verified with new formula of grain mix, mineral mix and/or TMR. Anytime there is a mismatch between actual and formulated all grain and mineral mixes, commodities along with forages/pastures must be analyzed.

Feed management adjustments must be verified as to what changes the producer actually implemented and the date it occurred.

Note: Additional information can be submitted. The items above are mandatory. Monitoring monthly income over feed costs is highly recommended.

The Plan should be reviewed with the producer each quarter.

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Goals for Dairy Contracts

1. Actual vs. Formulated

Dry matter intake
Protein percent
Phosphorus

Actual should be within 2.0 to 2.5 pounds of formulated.
Actual should be within 1.0 percent of formulated.
Actual should be within 0.03 percent of formulated. Goal as a percent of requirement should range from 90 to 110 percent of requirement for actual.

If these goals are not achieved, suggested actions include and are not limited to:

- a. Analyze any mixtures of grains, supplements and minerals.
- b. Check scales at mixers.
- c. Remove all sources of inorganic phosphorus.
- d. Update forage analyses and resample TMR if appropriate.
- e. Check fiber and carbohydrate status of the diet.

2. Dry matter intake efficiency..... Bulk tank milk weights should be from 3 consecutive pick-ups that represent the day when feed sampling takes place.
Request the producer give component info from the coop for those respective days if it is available.
Use DHIA only if the sampling date is within 3-5 days of your feed sampling date.
Use actual dry matter intake. If intakes are not within the 2 to 2.5 pounds of formulated and/or the intakes are not appropriate for the current milk production, make note that this is probably not accurate.
Typical range is 1.4 to 1.6.
3. MUNs..... Results should be within 3-5 days of the feed sampling period.
Recommended range is 8 to 12 mg/dl.
4. Fecal phosphorus..... Goal for lactating cows - 0.55 to 0.80%
Goal for dry cows – 0.60 to 0.85%
Goal for heifers – 0.55 to 0.85%

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