

CHECKLIST FOR FIVE PRIORITIES OF A DAIRY FEEDER



For each of the following items determine who is responsible and how often

FIRST PRIORITY: Mixing correctly

- Standardize names of feed and/or storage spaces
- Determine if feed is good enough to feed
- Determine the range for each feed ingredient

SECOND PRIORITY: Maintaining the mix sheet

- Determine sampling schedule for all feeds
- Determine dry matter measurement schedule for all feeds
- Take feed samples and run feed dry matters
- Collect current information for mix sheet:
 - Ration(s)? Dry matter(s)? Batch size(s) or cow number(s)? Feed analyses?
- Update and deliver new mix sheet
- Maintain records
- Decide when new ration is required

THIRD PRIORITY: Observing and Planning

- Determine storage capacities
- Calculate current feed inventory and project supply at current rate of use
- Monitor water supply for each group: quality and quantity
- Monitor animal intake, body condition, locomotion, rumination, and manure
- Deliver information to the ration balancer (feed analysis and animal description)
- Notify when problems and changes occur
- Make changes and fix problems

FOURTH PRIORITY: Delivering feed properly

- Evaluate and remove (or reuse) orts
- Set fill sequence and mixing time for loads
- Practice good bunk and silo management during feedout
- Confirm proper ration was delivered

FIFTH PRIORITY: Measuring dry matter intake (DMI)

- Collect input for DMI equation calculation for groups:
$$\frac{(\text{Pounds of feed offered}) \times (\text{DM\% feed offered}/100) - (\text{pounds of feed refused}) \times (\text{DM\% feed refused}/100)}{\text{number of cows}}$$
- Calculate DMI for groups
- Evaluate DMI
- Check accuracy of scales
- Keep records and communicate information

REFERENCE MATERIAL

The Feeder's Job Series Collection and Miner Feeder Tools can be downloaded at <http://www.whminer.com/outreach.html>