

Watch concentrate levels on good pasture

SOMERSET — Only moderate levels of concentrate are needed to maintain milk production levels when cows consume good amounts of high quality pasture, notes Robert J. Brown, Somerset County Extension Agent.

Forage remains high in digestible energy, protein and mineral contents as long as it is in the vegetative state. This refers to grasses before heading or the pre-bud stage for legumes.

Most studies indicate feeding concentrates at the rate of 1 pound per 5 to 6 pound of milk produced usually is adequate until late May or early June. A smaller grain to milk ratio of 1 3/4 or 1 4 may be needed by cows of the small breeds.

With good pasture management such moderate grain levels might be possible throughout the summer and fall on some farms.

Generally most dairy producers

prefer to feed some stored forage while cows are on pasture. Often it will furnish 25-50 percent of the usual hay-equivalent or forage dry matter intake. When pasture becomes scarce or matured, more storage forage and more concentrate must be fed to maintain good milk flow.

Unless most of the storage forage consists of corn silage or grass forage, a concentrate mixture containing 15-16 percent

crude protein often is adequate on good pasture. Gradually lower protein levels to this point and reduce grain intake gradually as well.

Overfeeding grain on good pasture may reduce milkfat test or aggravate a test problem. The high moisture content of good pasture is not detrimental to production or total dry matter intake. Excessive laxative effects may result from

overfeeding concentrate, protein and/or minerals while on ample amounts of high-quality pasture.

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The light of the sun, traveling at 186,000 miles per second, takes eight minutes to get to the earth. The light of the next-closest star takes more than four years to reach us, and our view of most other stars is dozens, hundreds, or even thousands of years old.

Poultry feed

(Continued from Page C38) to be able to afford a home-mix outfit.

What are the advantages to home mixing?

Fresh ground feed is better feed, this is what farmers say. Vertical integration of management control of feed quality is an advantage. Home-mixers can use local corn easily.

Home-mix managers say they net \$10 to \$20 per ton for their efforts or they quit. Once you get used to the operation you feel you have better control of feed quality. You can change formula or diet as needed by the species, breed, strain, variety, age, sex or season.

If you have passed through all 13 items with a "go" signal in your mind, then continue to school yourself for 100 hours more and begin setting up your home mixing operation.

At best on-the-farm mixing is difficult, frustrating and time consuming. However, it can be rewarding, so weight all the pros and cons. If you have a potential saving of \$20.00 per ton or more, then you should seriously consider home mixing feed.

Remember - the primary reason for home-mix operations failing is poor quality control. So keep quality of ingredients and final feed high. You cannot do this alone so confide in a person with knowledge about feed quality and ration formulation.

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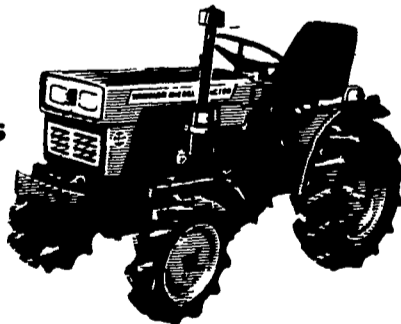
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