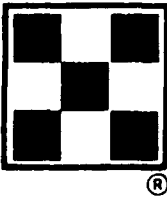




PURINA
MILLS, INC.



Dairy Tips By Dr. John Clark

Purina Mills Dairy Consultant

Challenge Feeding

Challenge feeding is the method used to get the early lactation cows ration shifted from the low grain intake levels of a dry cow ration to the high intake level needed by cows in order to sustain top production without excessive body weight loss after calving. If challenge feeding is done correctly, ketosis, acidosis, off-feed problems, low dry matter intake and other problems can be avoided.

It has been shown that grain intake must be increased as quickly as possible after calving but at a rate the rumen microbes can handle. Normally, optimum intakes can be reached within 4-6 weeks after calving. If grain and concentrate is fed separately, concentrates can be increased at a faster rate than grain. (Peak concentrate at 3-5 weeks and peak grain 1-2 weeks later.)

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(until you talk with a Purina Dairy Consultant)

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- to meet needs of high producing cows before peak D.M.I.
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All
Legume



All
Corn
Silage



Legume/
Corn
Silage



All
Legume



All
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and Grass



Legume/
Corn Silage
and Grass

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- to balance a program where little concentrate is needed like late lactation, dry cows, heifers
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