

DAIRY TIPS

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WHAT ABOUT DRY COWS?

It still is common to see poor dry cow programs, or no dry cow program, on dairy farms. Common examples of poor programs are lack of adequate protein. Sometimes, energy is also lacking. Low mineral and vitamin fortification is also common.

Farms that have high incidence of fresh cow problems often have a poor dry cow program. Failure to provide a 60-day dry period, along with lack of proper nutrition, will result in lost milk production and increased metabolic problems. Body condition of dry cows can be a good indicator

of whether management and nutrition is good or poor.

What do dry cows need to fresh in good shape? Start with the right forages. Don't overfeed silages (25-lb. corn silage per head per day is plenty). Feed all the hay they will eat. Grass hay is best. Hay quality must be good; the more hay they eat, the better. Don't use alfalfa, if possible. Supplement forages with grain, protein, vitamins and minerals, in amounts recommended by the Purina program. Provide clean water. Body condition score should be between 3.25 to 3.75. Trim hooves before or at dry off. Dry treat udders.

Ask Purina about their line of PREPARE DRY COW SUPPLEMENTS OR EASY CARE BLOCKS.

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