



**PURINA
MILLS, INC.**

Dairy Tips By Dr. Randy Lyle, Ph.D.

Purina Mills Dairy Consultant

High Fat Rations For Dairy Cows

High producing dairy herds across the country have several things in common, examples being good management, high quality forages, and high dry matter intakes. Another common factor is feeding high fat rations. A national survey by Texas A&M University showed that over 60% of top DHI producing U.S. herds feed high fat rations.

Why feed high fat rations to dairy cows? Fat is the most energy-dense ingredient available, and energy is the nutrient that is most likely to limit peak milk yield and optimum breeding efficiency. There are many sources of fat for use in dairy rations, with the major ones being high oil seeds (e.g. soybeans, whole cottonseed), tallow (animal origin), and dry fats.

Cost, availability, quality, ease of use, palatability and response all determine which type of fat source is best for your herd.

Purina Mills has researched high fat dairy rations for over 20 years. In addition, we have marketed high fat products since the mid 70's. Our knowledge of use of fats continues to increase. We know that fat is just one important part of the total "nutrient package" fed to high producing cows.

There are strict guidelines that must be followed when feeding high fat rations. Simply adding fat to a feed can create more problems than benefits. Our research and field experience has taught us how to use fat as a high performance ingredient in our premium dairy products. Those of you who have recently visited the Purina Mills Dairy Research Center, in Gray Summit, Missouri, have seen for yourselves the extensive work we are doing to expand our understanding of dairy nutrition. We will continue to develop higher performance dairy products that will help you meet your goals.

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