

February 2, 2012



**Management of your feeding program.**

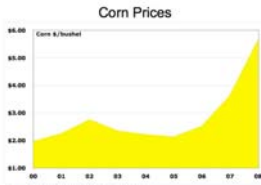
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**Motivation for improvements in feeding management**

**Cost / lb. of DMI = \$.15**

**\$8 @ 52 lb. DMI**




Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Bioenergy



**Daily feed cost – 200 cow dairy**

- \$1,600 / day = \$584,000
- Reduce shrink by 1% - \$5,840
- Reduce over feeding by 5% = ~\$30,000
- More consistent rations – milk production
- Influence on nutrient management plan?



**Three rations on the farm?**

- Formulated
- Mixed and delivered
- Consumed
- Are they the same?



## Formulation



- Greatest computer models of D.C. Nutrition.
- Feed information
  - Forages
  - Commodities
  - Representative sample
  - Timely
  - Inventory



## Mixed and delivered – who?



## Mixing and delivery

- Changes in silage DM%
- Employee – training, evaluation
- Mixing
  - Load order
  - Accuracy / precision
  - Format for ration recipe?
  - Layout of feed storage and loading area.



## Feed facility layout



Full loads but not too full?



ch

The ration the cows consume?



VirginiaTech  
Invent the Future

Delivery – multiple groups/load



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Invent the Future

Feeding environment



VirginiaTech  
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### Other items silo face management



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### Commodity storage management



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### Commodity quality



### Byproduct commodity quality



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### Commodity quality



### Controlling shrink?

- What you buy vs. what you feed and what the cows eat?



### Impact of water quality on the feeding program?



### Impact of water quality?



## Managing the feeding program

- Feed quality assessment
- Communicating with the nutritionist
- Maintaining feed quality
- Accurate mixing and delivery
- Providing the environment to assure expected intake and performance
- Evaluation of the feeding program.