

Fat Test Checklist

1. Does the diet contain enough physical fiber?

- _____ Are 2/3 of the cows chewing their cud when they are resting?
- _____ Does the shaker box indicate at least 2% on the top and 40% on the middle screen?
- _____ Is the hay at least 2 inches long? Is the straw 1 inch long or shorter?

2. How does bunk management look?

- _____ Are the cows sorting?
- _____ Are there too many cows for the bunk/manger space?
- _____ What are the cows leaving (weighbacks)? How much is left?
- _____ Is the TMR delivered at the same time every day?
- _____ Are the cows out of feed in the morning? More than 2 hours?
- _____ Does the TMR look or test consistent?
- _____ How often are the cows top-dressed? What amount at a time?
- _____ How many times does feed get pushed up? When?
- _____ How are intakes? Do they vary daily?

3. How much starch and chemical fiber is fed?

- _____ How high is the starch level? What is the fermentable starch?
- _____ How much sugar is in the diet? What is the combined sugar & starch?
- _____ How much fiber comes from forages?
- _____ Feeding more than 20% byproducts in feed?
- _____ How are the concentrate sources processed?

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4. How much unsaturated fats are in the diet?

- _____ Is the total amount of fat-both unsat and sat-over 2 pounds per cow?
- _____ Feeding pasture or immature forage with significant unsat fats?
- _____ Feeding excessive amounts of corn oil?
- _____ Are the total rumen available fat ratios adequate?
- _____ Are there variances in fat levels in sourced commodities?

5. Where is the metabolizable protein at?

- _____ Is the predicted rumen ammonia level too low? MUNs low?
- _____ Lysine/methionine ratio at least 2.5:1?

6. Are any of these an issue with the diet?

- _____ Is the potassium to magnesium ratio 4:1?
- _____ DCAD level greater than 35 meq/100 gm dry matter?
- _____ Feeding adequate calcium with unsaturated fats (0.9-1.0%)?
- _____ Are wild yeasts present in any of the feeds? Molds?
- _____ Is the rumensin level too high for the current diet?
- _____ Is there a shift in rumensin level from postfresh to prefresh?

7. Are any of these a possibility?

- _____ Is the bulk tank or pump working improperly?
- _____ Are the dry cows coming in excessively thin?
- _____ Are the cows stressed during milking?

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- _____ Is the milking incomplete?
- _____ How is milking procedure and timing?
- _____ Is the milking equipment working properly?

Contact us at 1-800-700-9334 or 715-768-0046 for solutions

