

Patz LINK



YOUR LINK TO PROFIT



Is There Too Much "P" in your Feed?

P is overfed because of a long-standing belief that it improves reproductive performance

Most dairy producers are feeding more phosphorus (P) than their cows need. This is according to Larry Satter, a researcher at the U.S. Dairy Forage Research Center in Madison, WI and appeared in an article titled "Most Herds Are Fed Too Much Phosphorus" in the September, 2001 issue of *Hay & Forage Grower*.

Phosphorus ends up in manure and is bad for the environment because it promotes algae growth. According to Mr. Satter, P is overfed because of a long-standing belief that it improves reproductive performance. Recent research showed that producers were feeding an average of 0.48% dietary P. Several studies have shown that lowering it to National Research Council (NRC) guidelines (see chart on next page) will not impair reproductive performance or lower milk production, but it will help dairy producers with some of the environmental challenges they face.

How do we cut P excretion? The easiest step is to lower P

levels to those recommended by the NRC. According to an article titled "Phosphorus, Cows, and Environment: Where Can We Go?"

appearing in the April 10, 2002 issue of *Hoard's*, a study of a 600-cow herd showed an estimated decrease of P excretion of approximately 20% by lowering P fed from 0.48 to 0.37 percent. In this example, this represents 8,060 pounds less manure P per year. Like many dairy producers, your land may be subject to new and proposed regulations targeting P applications to cropland. By reducing manure P, you can significantly reduce the land needed to spread it (see chart on next page).

Mr. Satter figures a cutback of P to NRC recommended levels could save dairy producers \$100 million annually and might avoid stiffer manure disposal regulations. How do you get started? Begin by working with your nutritionist or

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veterinarian to know the P level of your ration. If you're feeding too much P, make the necessary adjustments to meet but not exceed your cows' requirements. You should also put in place and follow an approved nutrient management plan to

optimize environmental benefits. As stated by the article in Hoard's, producers of all sizes and production levels will need to address this issue. Reducing P fed is one option that could have a favorable financial as well as environmental outcome.

How Can You Optimize Dietary P (%) Levels?

- **Match Dietary P Level (%) to Milk Production!**
Use the National Research Council (NRC) Feed Recommendations.
- **Analyze Your Feed!**
Talk with your nutritionist or use a qualified lab to determine the dietary P level (%) to adjust your inputs if necessary.

NRC Feed Recommendations	
Milk Production	Dietary P Level
55 lbs/day	0.32 %
77 lbs/day	0.35 %
99 lbs/day	0.36 %
120 lbs/day	0.38 %

Adapted from Nutrient Requirements for Dairy Cattle, Seventh Revised Edition 2001, National Academy Press Washinton D.C., Jan. 2001

Lowering dietary P reduces manure P, which requires fewer spreadable acres!

	Dietary P (%)	Manure P (lbs/cow/yr)	Spreadable Acres (acres/cow/yr)	Acres Needed on a 100 cow dairy
Exceeds NRC rec's	0.55	78	2.9	290
	0.48	65	2.4	240
Within NRC rec's	0.38	47	1.8	180
	0.35	42	1.6	160

For example, on a 100-cow dairy farm, if you lowered dietary P from 0.55% to 0.38%, you would reduce the land needed to spread manure on by 110 acres!

2002 Farm Bill DOLLARS 4 YOU

The new Farm Bill has several features that will impact dairy. The Market Loss Payment Program makes a direct payment to farmers if the Class I milk price per cwt. in Boston is below \$16.94. The program actually begins on December 1, 2001 and ends on September 30, 2005. Dairy farmers will receive payments on milk they produced since December of 2001, because the price has never been above \$16.94 since then. The payment amount is 45% of the difference between \$16.94 and the Boston Class I price. Payments are limited to a 2.4 million pounds per year cap. As an example, a farm with 120 cows each producing 20,000 pounds of milk is at the cap. The farm bill states that \$23,300 is the maximum amount that a farm can receive in this current fiscal year, which ends September 30. According to an article in "The Country Today," Bob Cropp, University of Wisconsin Extension Dairy Marketing and Policy Specialist, states that smaller farms, like those in the upper Midwest, will reap the full benefit of payments. Mr. Cropp suggests that these farmers use the money to "pay down debt, remodel

facilities for improved efficiency and profitability and replace needed equipment." Signup for the program begins August 13, 2002 and payments are scheduled to begin in October 2002.

Another feature is the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Through cost-share or incentive payments, it will help farmers pay for environmental and conservation improvements on the farm, including comprehensive nutrient management plans (CNMPs), waste management systems, and manure management equipment and structures. For more information about EQIP, contact your local USDA Service Center, listed in the telephone book under U.S. Department of Agriculture, or your local conservation district, which you can find at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/contact/>. Research EQIP for the possibility of funding for Patz Manure Solutions equipment.

Information on the Dairy Market Loss Payment Program and EQIP is also available at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/farmbill/2002/>.



Introducing... **The Patz Line of Vertical Mixers!**

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As part of our continuing commitment, Patz is pleased to announce its new line of vertical mixers. These mixers are designed for long life, low maintenance and trouble-free operation. Experience the durability, dependability and proven performance of Patz.



TMR

Using the total mixed ration (TMR) system for feeding dairy cows has become increasingly popular. With this system, milk production per cow can be maximized and feed and labor costs minimized. With a TMR, feed ingredients required to furnish all the nutrients and other dietary factors necessary for proper rumen function are mixed together in measured proportions. The producer can group cows based on reproductive status, age, nutrient requirement, health, etc., and formulate different TMRs based on each group's needs. To achieve maximum performance, good feeding management

practices must be followed. Forage and feed inventory should be monitored regularly and tested several times throughout the year. Ration formulations should be updated based on milk production, milk fat and milk protein percent, current body weight and body condition scores, moisture changes in forages or high moisture feed ingredients, and prices of current feeds.

Advantages of a TMR feeding system

- Improved feed efficiency. Each mouthful of feed contains the right amount of ingredients for a balanced ration. A 4% increase in feed utilization can be expected, compared to a conventional ration of forage and grain fed separately twice a day, and milk production has been shown to be as much as 5% higher. The occurrence of digestive and metabolic problems often decreases.
- A properly managed TMR results in greater accuracy in formulation and feeding. With a properly mixed TMR, a cow cannot consume significantly more or less of a forage or concentrate.
- Grain feeding in the milking parlor can be eliminated, resulting in calmer cows, less feed waste and reduced dust. Milking time is reduced.
- With a variety of ingredients, the ration can be formulated for various production groups.
- Blending all the feeds together in a TMR can mask the flavor of less palatable feeds.
- Feeding a TMR requires less labor as the feeding operations are mechanized.
- Mixers can be purchased that handle the addition of long hay.

*...milk production
per cow can be
maximized and
feed and labor
costs minimized*

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**What Goes in
Must Come out**

and Patz Can Handle It All!

Patz FEEDING SOLUTIONS **Patz MANURE SOLUTIONS**

INSIDE



- OPTIMIZE DIETARY "P" LEVELS
- TMR ADVANTAGES
- DOLLARS FOR YOU!



If you've ever tried to find an owner's manual in a shop drawer, you know there has to be a better way. Irvin Naylor of Lancaster, Kentucky, files his manuals in a see-through shoe bag hung by a nail in his shop. It keeps the books clean and in view.

Taken from the book "Handy Devices" from Progressive Farmer.



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