

Flat Aggie Adventures Cow Nutrition

Edition 4



DID YOU KNOW?



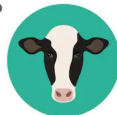
TMR: Total mixed ration (TMR) is the practice of blending all feedstuffs into a complete ration.



Herbivore: An animal that feeds on plants.



Chopper: Implement that chops the plant from the base up.



Ruminant: Mammals that have a complex digestive system with four chambers in the stomach.



Nutrition: Fueling the body with food necessary for health and growth.



By-product: A secondary product made from a primary source.

FEED RATION

Dairy cows are ruminant mammals, meaning they have a complex digestive system consisting of four chambers in their stomach. Ruminant animals can turn grass and other plant materials into energy for fueling their bodies. Cows spend 6 hours eating and 8 additional hours chewing their cud each day. Flat Aggie is demonstrating how to mix feed with a TMR Mixer in the photograph above. Technology helps Flat Aggie know how many pounds of each feedstuff to add to the mixer and which pen to deliver the ration to. Flat Aggie is mixing a TMR that includes; ground corn, corn silage, cotton seed, haylage, and protein.





CAREER CORNER: DAIRY NUTRITIONIST

A dairy nutritionist is a professional who develops feeding programs for farmers and their dairy herd. The goal of a dairy nutritionist is to develop a nutritional plan that will increase production while maximizing the health of the herd.

FUN DAIRY FACTS

- Each day a cow spends 6 hours eating.
- Each day a cow spends 8 hours chewing her cud (partially digested food returned from the first chamber).
- It takes the cow's body 2 days to convert the feed into milk.

JOKE OF THE DAY

What did the farmer call his cow that would not give him any milk?

An udder failure!

HEALTHY COWS HAPPY COWS

Dairy cows consume between 80 and 100 pounds of feed and 30 to 50 gallons of water each day (enough to fill a bathtub). Balanced TMR is very important for providing the proper nutrition necessary for healthy and happy cows!

Total Mixed Ration Ingredients:

- Ground corn:** Dent corn ground into a fine powder. Ground corn helps high producing cows meet their energy requirements and is easier to digest than whole corn.
- Cottonseed:** Seeds left-over after cotton harvest. Cottonseeds help increase milk production and butterfat content.
- Silage:** Corn stalks that are cut, chopped and stored fresh. Corn kernels are cracked, making it easier for the cow to digest.
- Haylage:** Grass that is cut, chopped, and stored fresh. Haylage is higher in nutrients than traditional hay and it more palatable.
- Corn gluten:** A corn protein by-product from making a gas called ethanol.



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