



Transition cow rolls

Feeding dry and transition cows

Feeding dry and transition cows has a critical role to play in producing high milk yields, health and fertility and minimizing metabolic problems during the subsequent lactation. The aim of any dry cow regime is to prepare the cow so that she is able to maximize dry matter intake after calving. High intakes in early lactation will be enable her to meet energy requirements, which will minimize body condition loss and maintain good fertility and maximize milk production.

There are various aims of feeding in the dry period. Calving difficulties need to be avoided in order to produce a healthy, thriving calf. Cows need to calve with minimum metabolic problems, including both clinical and sub-clinical milk fever, retained placenta, and without subsequent ketosis, displaced abomasums etc. Also, cows need to be fed to encourage healthy development of the rumen wall, papillae and microbial population. The correct balance of magnesium, calcium, potassium, sodium and where necessary anionic salts are also needed to maintain normal blood calcium levels and prevent milk fever. Finally, the cow's immune system will need to be built up so that she can fight infection in the next lactation and pass on antibodies to her calf. Transition cow rolls contain high energy ingredients and a high level of protein made of good amounts of bypass protein. Vitamin A, D & E levels are high which will help to promote a healthy immune system for both the cow and calf. Selenium is supplied in both protected and non-protected forms to help support the immune system.

Feeding rates & guides

Transition cow rolls can be fed throughout the dry and transition period. Diets can be formulated to match your forage availability and quality. Our approach to feeding dairy cows is to look at all the feeds available on the farm together with the target performance and produce a bespoke ration to suit your needs and aspirations.

Key components and reasons for inclusion

Only high quality ingredients are included, such as hipro soya, rapeseed meal, wheat & barley. Poorer quality ingredients such as bakery waste etc are not included; this is also indicated by the overall fibre level of the concentrate which is approximately 7%. Vitamin E deficiency may increase the risk of metritis, retained placenta and mastitis; with this in mind Transition cow rolls contain correct levels of vitamin E. Selenium is also needed for optimal functioning of the immune system and has been shown to help prevent mastitis. Selenium is supplied from a protected source (Selplex, a seleno yeast) and sodium selenite works in conjunction with Vitamin E. Transition cow rolls contain precise balance of Calcium, Phosphorous and Magnesium, essential to reduce the risk of hypocalcaemia. Crude Protein is 23% and high metabolizable energy (12.4 MJ/kg DM) provides the cow with the best opportunity for a successful dry and transition period.

Disclaimer

Rations should be carefully balanced in terms of nutrient content. They should contain sufficient forage to maintain rumen function and be fortified with an appropriate vitamin and mineral supplement on farms where this is needed. Animals must have constant access to clean water. Suggested feeding rates are produced as a guide only and many other factors may have an overriding effect on animal response; no performance guarantee can be given. Ingredients are generally as in the table, but are subject to change.





Ingredients

Typical Ingredients	Metabolizable Energy	Crude protein	Benefits / Reason for use
EU wheat distillers	13.8	34.0	Intakes of other less palatable feeds can be stimulated. Good sources of energy and protein. Can stimulate rumen activity, encourages fibre digestion and feed efficiency. Allows energy intakes to be increased without increasing the risk of acidosis associated with high starch feeds.
Rapeseed meal	12.1	38.5	Good source of ERDP. Allows the cow to maximize milk production. Provides the building blocks to drive milk protein synthesis
Palm kernel	12.5	17.0	Promotes milk fat synthesis. Allows energy intakes to be maximized without increasing the risk of acidosis associated with cereal feeding.
Hipro (high protein) soya	13.6	55.0	High levels of DUP. Allows the cow to maximize milk production. Provides the building blocks to drive milk protein synthesis.
Molasses	11.3	20.0	High in sugar making it very palatable.
Wheat	13.8	13.0	High in energy, useful for increasing milk protein yields. High in starch of which 10% is not fermented in the rumen.
Malt residuals	11.6	24.5	A good source of fibre, whilst maintaining reasonable levels of energy and protein.
Wheatfeed	11.7	18.0	Good source of starch for milk production. Starch, fibre and protein provide the building blocks for milk fat and protein synthesis.
Sugarbeet	12.5	11.0	Can stimulate intakes of less palatable feeds, increasing milk production. Provides the building blocks for milk fat synthesis. Allows energy intakes to be increased without increasing the risk of acidosis associated with cereal feeding. Assists in maintaining an optimum rumen pH, kind to the rumen.
Calcined magnesite			A good supply of supplemental magnesium.
Salt			Salt is included to promote saliva production which helps buffer acid in the rumen.
Protec liquid			A mechanism for increasing bypass protein.
Fat			A good source of energy
Vitamins & minerals			Well balanced minerals supplement
Element	Reason for inclusion		
Vitamin A	Essential for eye function and beneficial to reproduction / fertility in cattle.		
Vitamin D ₃	Essential for bone formation and hence growth, involved with calcium and phosphorous absorption.		
Vitamin E	Antioxidant working closely with Selenium in preventing formation of peroxides. Peroxides damage cells. Essential for fertility and for pregnant animals to pass onto young calves.		
Selenium	An antioxidant plays a vital role in immunity. Benefits reproduction and growth. Protects muscles from degeneration. Helps to prevent retained placentas.		
Copper	Essential for bone formation, cardiac function, immunity, reproduction and fertility.		
Magnesium	Essential for growth, repair of body tissue, bone development and milk yield. Needed for enzymes, muscle and nerve function.		
Phosphorous	One of the most important elements being involved with energy production, bone and teeth formation, milk production, appetite and reproduction.		

