



Penn State Income Over Feed Cost Tool Results For the Penn State dairy herd July 2009

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In June's write-up I mentioned that intakes for the high groups would be limited because there was an opportunity to improve dry matter intake efficiencies. In July our canola meal went up in price and because we were feeding brown mid-rib (BMR) corn silage, that price was higher by \$5.00/ton. The moisture content of the forages was higher so the as-fed amounts tended to be higher in July compared to June.

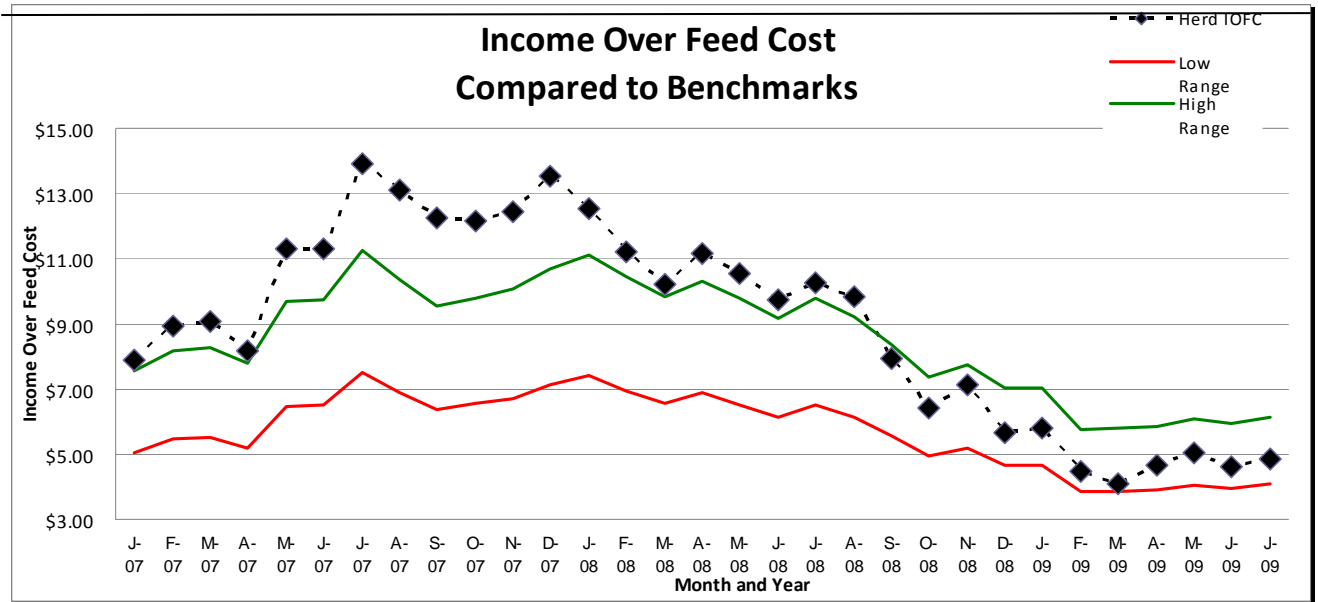
The results for July show we were successful in controlling whole herd dry matter intake (DMI) by limiting the amount of TMR fed to the high groups. For most of the month we observed close to 0% refusal for the high groups. On average, the whole herd DMI dropped 1.6 lbs from June and milk production averaged higher. Our numbers for July were 54.9 lbs DMI with milk at 84 lbs 3.47% fat, 3.04% protein and a SCC of 193,000. Dry matter intake efficiency went from 1.44 in June to 1.51 in July. Fat test also improved from 3.41 in June to 3.47% in July with the last several tests being around 3.47-3.51%. Body condition has been evaluated and the cows are looking very good.

The feed cost per cow went from \$5.27 (June) to \$5.36 due to the higher price of canola and BMR CS, and the moisture content being higher in the corn silage and haylage contributing to higher as-fed amounts being fed. However, if we had not limited pens 1 and 2, we would have seen another \$0.13 per cow in addition to the \$5.36, so our strategy did work. It allowed us to take advantage of the "slightly" higher milk price coupled with improved animal performance. To date, the cows are telling us that no negative consequences have occurred because of implementing this strategy.

The herd continues on the precision feeding regime, which includes balancing for metabolizable protein and keeping crude protein at 15.5% on a dry matter basis and the herd was on a 60% forage diet. For June and July, MUNs have been consistently between 8-10 mg/dl. August's results will be interesting as we are experiencing some really hot days and we have finished the bag of BMR CS.

IOFC Compared to Benchmarks

Month and Year	Gross Milk Price/cwt	Milk income/cow	Feed cost/cow	IOFC	Average milk lbs	Benchmark Range	
						Low	High
J-09	\$14.80	\$11.69	\$5.91	\$5.78	79.0	\$ 4.68	\$ 7.02
F-09	\$12.14	\$9.59	\$5.10	\$4.49	79.0	\$ 3.84	\$ 5.75
M-09	\$12.00	\$9.66	\$5.57	\$4.09	80.5	\$ 3.86	\$ 5.80
A-09	\$12.46	\$9.72	\$5.07	\$4.65	78.0	\$ 3.89	\$ 5.83
M-09	\$12.41	\$10.11	\$5.07	\$5.04	81.5	\$ 4.05	\$ 6.07
J-09	\$11.90	\$9.88	\$5.27	\$4.61	83.0	\$ 3.95	\$ 5.93
J-09	\$12.13	\$10.19	\$5.35	\$4.84	84.0	\$ 4.08	\$ 6.11



For more information:

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