

PSU Herd IOFC – June, 2009

The milk price for June was depressing. The one positive is that the weather has been cool and conducive to the cows milking well. The high group, 2 year old group and fresh cows started on BMR corn silage the last week of the month. We observed about a 3-5 pound increase in milk production that is still persisting in July. The cows have been on a 60% forage diet with the BMR corn silage consisting of 45% of the total dry matter. Our feed cost per cow went up in June because the cows were consuming a

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

lot of dry matter, especially the high groups. For example, pen 1 intakes (60 cows) were extremely high at 68 pounds and based on DHIA the average milk production was 105 pounds. Our strategy for July was to limit dry matter intake on pen 1 to a maximum of 64 pounds. Each week the feeder is given a revised formula sheet with the maximum he can feed for the group (based on updated dry matters on forages). On July's DHIA test, the same group of cows averaged 105 pounds of milk, so putting a limit on the amount of dry matter intake does not appear to have had any negative affects. It will be interesting to see what happens to feed cost per cow for July.

Monthly monitoring of feed cost/cow and IOFC is a great tool to correcting problems before they get to the point of being major problems. Our goal is to keep the cows healthy and producing while trying to keep feed costs in line. Even so, these are tough times when milk price is low and feed costs are remaining high. There are no easy answers or solutions.

