

## Penn State University Dairy Research Herd Income Over Feed Cost Data – May 2009

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

The weather this spring has been very kind to the cows. We have seen increased milk production and we have implemented some feeding strategies to keep feed cost per cow as low as possible. The large scale research project was completed the end of April, so we were able to incorporate some grouping strategies. A low group (all pregnant animals) was

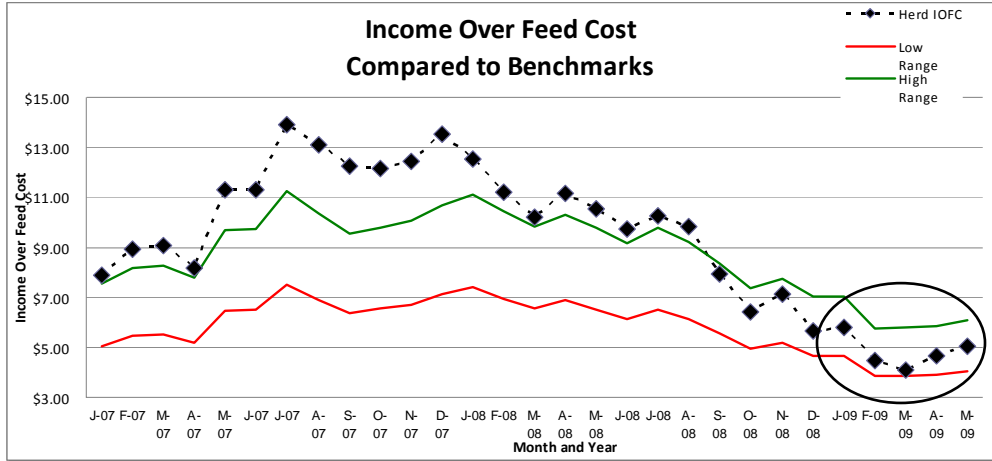
developed where those cows get limit fed TMR during the day and pasture at night. These late lactation animals tend to be very inefficient in converting feed to milk and they have a tendency to put on too much body condition. This strategy helps control feed cost/cow, get cows off concrete and maintains a more ideal body condition for dry off.

We developed a 2 year old group and a mature high cow group. This strategy in itself seems to promote high milk production even with no change in the ration.

May was a major transition month in regards to corn silage source. The upright corn silage got emptied and we had to finish feeding out 2 bird damaged bags of corn silage. Even though the quality was not stellar (last of the corn silage to get harvested last year), the decision was made to finish out these bags as quickly as possible before opening another structure. The NDF 30 hr digestibility on these corn silages was 55% and the amount of lactic acid produced on these two silages was low, which does affect the energy value. Our MUNs for the herd typically run about 9-10 mg/dl, however, in May they were averaging higher, around 14 mg/dl (Land O'Lakes). At the end of May we adjusted the herd ration from 60% forage dry matter to 55% forage dry matter. After this change was made, MUNs dropped down to 10 mg/dl.

The herd ration is formulated for metabolizable protein, which for our herd is 15.7% crude protein. The ration is heavy corn silage (22 lbs dry matter) along with some alfalfa silage and a 50/50 blend of grass hay and straw. The TMR analysis came back very close to what the ration was formulated for (fiber, starch, fat and protein).

Bottom line: The feeding management strategies in May helped keep feed cost the same as April and even though milk price/cwt was lower compared to April, our higher milk production helped move IOFC up.



#### A N A L Y S I S   R E S U L T S

TMR	As Sampled	Dry Matter	Unit
Moisture	47.4		%
Dry Matter	52.6		%
Crude Protein	8.1	15.4	% DM
Adjusted Protein	8.1	15.4	% DM
Soluble Protein		38.7	% CP
Degradable Protein (calc.)		69.3	% CP
TDN	38.1	72.5	% DM
Net Energy Lactation	0.40	0.76	Mcal/lb
Net Energy Maintenance	0.41	0.78	Mcal/lb
Net Energy Gain	0.26	0.50	Mcal/lb
Acid Detergent Fiber	11.1	21.1	% DM
Neutral Detergent Fiber	17.7	33.7	% DM
Crude Fat	2.6	5.0	% DM
Ash	3.8	7.3	% DM
Starch	14.3	27.2	% DM
NFC	20.9	39.7	% DM

May's TMR analysis – Formulated CP% - 15.7; Formulated NDF% - 32.5