

# Tips for solving your feed problems

Every bit counts when feed is scarce. Your day-to-day feeding practices can make the difference between a sick cow and a productive cow with a healthy rumen.

Good feeding management means:

- reducing feed wastage to stretch fodder reserves and lower your feed costs;
- allowing every animal access to the feed;
- feeding forages before grain/concentrate in the bail or feeding forages immediately after grain/ concentrate in the bail; and
- making changes to the diet gradually

## Are your fresh cows accustomed to eating grain/concentrate in the dairy?

Use a transition diet to adjust the rumen in the 2-3 weeks before calving.



## Do you really know how much grain/concentrate you are offering each cow in the dairy?

Grab a set of scales and weigh the feed in one bail. Then check all the feeders and calibrate as necessary.



Multiple feeds during the day help keep the rumen stable. Feed grain/concentrate at least twice a day if feeding more than 3-4 kg per day.



## TIMING OF FEEDING

The timing of feeding each day is important.

If you can't feed forages before grain/concentrate make sure cows get to forage quickly after consuming grain/concentrate in the dairy.

Avoid holding cows back after milking if there is plenty of pasture in the paddock.

Recycled materials can be simple and effective in reducing feed wastage



Make sure your mix reaches its target. Reduce feed wastage.



At least 20 per cent of this hay is being wasted. The hay cost \$400/tonne to buy, but is really costing \$480/tonne by the time it is eaten! Stop hay being wasted in the ground.



Saving feed doesn't have to be tricky. Take a look at the mesh that lines this hay ring to reduce feed wastage.



**When you feed out, do all cows have good access?**

Younger and smaller animals are at risk of acidosis if they don't have enough room to feed comfortably.



## Can you afford to waste feed?

20–30 per cent wastage is common when feeding on the ground. Wastage increases feed costs. See 'Reducing feed wastage costs' factsheet for more information [feed.dairyaustralia.com.au/feeding-your-herd/reducing-feed-wastage-costs](https://feed.dairyaustralia.com.au/feeding-your-herd/reducing-feed-wastage-costs)

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Visit [feed.dairyaustralia.com.au](https://feed.dairyaustralia.com.au)

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