

GPS Feedbunk Management Evaluation

4



IDEAL BUNK

Feed available and distributed full length of the bunk

Continuously provide a fresh, high quality, balanced and non-sorted ration without cow competition. Improves:

- dry matter intake & feed efficiency
- rumen health
- lying time
- milk production and milk components

3



Feed available but not evenly distributed along the bunk

Feed must be available the full length of the pen, with 2x the amount of TMR delivered near the waterers and cross-overs both on the ends of the pen and where the waterers are located. Push-up feed in two directions alternating to keep feed available at both bunk ends, or use a skid-steer bucket to move feed from one end to the other end.

2



Visible “cement” in spots and a ridge of TMR in front of the reaching cows along the majority of the bunk

Frequent and scheduled push-ups to ensure that all cows have feed within their reach at all times is essential. Feed push-ups multiple times in the morning from 5 am to 10 am is a very important time when cows naturally are wanting to eat, and should be done even with fresh TMR being dropped in the morning. Push-up was too late in the picture.

1



Visible “cement” and an unreachable ridge of TMR in front of the cows along the full length of the bunk

The bunk should be constantly covered with fresh TMR. Because cows tend to push and toss feed forward, and then reach for feed as they eat, it is essential to push-up feed multiple times during the day. The recommended number and timing of feed push-ups is related to many factors, with higher stocking density being a key factor requiring additional push-ups.

0



EMPTY BUNK

Some feed but this bunk should be considered EMPTY or zero

The goal is to have less than 5% “zero event” bunks in a given week or month, which is defined as a bunk with less than 100-150 lbs as-fed TMR remaining in the bunk at the next day’s first scheduled feeding time. Never deliver fresh TMR over the top of day-old feed that should be removed and recorded as weighback.

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