



DAIRYINFO

W-S Feed & Supplies, Ltd.
1805 Sawmill Road
Conestogo, ON N0B 1N0
Canada
1.800.265.2203
www.wsfeeds.ca
Taking service to another level

A TALE OF BIRDS!

“Four and twenty blackbirds” might make a dainty dish “to set before the king”, but when it comes to your farm, you might like them more... if they just “flew the coop.”

A look at the quantity and value of feed that birds consume may reveal that they are costing you far more than the “sixpence” mentioned in the classic nursery rhyme.

Just how much are birds stealing from you? How much are birds on your farm costing you? Here’s a look at some numbers and information, which is based on new data from a recent survey. The survey was conducted 2009 by the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). Their survey reported the results from 399 commercial dairies in Pennsylvania, New York and Wisconsin. Results were published in the November 2012 *Journal of Dairy Science*. The information can certainly help us to better understand the magnitude of feed losses caused by birds on dairies. Here are some of the key findings:

- Birds especially like your farm in the winter. Estimated bird numbers, feed consumption by birds and fecal contamination by birds were all shown to be greatest from January 1 through March 31, and the lowest from July 1 to September 30 each year.
- Among bird species reported on dairies, the European Starling was the most common and most destructive specie identified.
- “A bird in the hand”... equals feed loss in the other (hand). This is no surprise. The more birds you have, the more it’s going to cost you. Dairies reporting no bird problems spent \$4.92 on feed cost/hundredweight of milk. In contrast, dairies reporting bird populations greater than 10,000 spent \$2.07 more on feed cost/hundredweight.

No cheap chirper!

In the late 1960’s, feedlot researchers put some real life statistics on how much a starling could eat. They found that a starling weighing 85 grams — that’s about three ounces — could eat about 2 lbs. of feed/month. Today, at a feed cost of approximately 13 cents/lb. of dry matter, that equates to 26 cents/bird/month. It doesn’t seem like much, until you multiply this 26 cents across 1,000 birds. Do the math! Those 1,000 birds can eat up \$260 (+) worth of feed in just one month. Across an entire year, the lost value of feed totals about \$3,120 (or more). Actual losses may vary by season. That is certainly not “pocket change”!

The USDA survey also puts some estimates on the annual cost of feed lost to birds:

- Dairies reporting 1 to 1,000 birds lost \$9,399.14 of feed to bird damage annually.
- Dairies reporting 1,001 to 10,000 birds lost over \$22,794.26 worth of feed.

Birds can be a real concern on many farms! There are numerous suggestions to how best to deal with this problem and to help reduce feed losses, while improving other potential health-related concerns due to birds around the farm. Be sure to check with your Renaissance consultant for suggestions and your local Extension office. Then work proactively to “send those birds packing” and help improve your feed quality and bottom line.

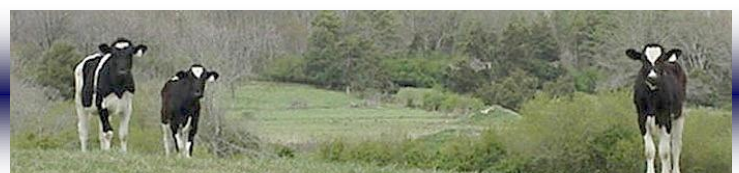
(Edited from an article in Dairy Herd Daily Network/K. Schoonmaker, 2013)

KEYS TO A PROFITABLE FORAGE PROGRAM:

Forages typically account for over half the total feed cost for dairy cattle. Thus, they have a major impact on both expenses and income. The basic commodity is forage and animals are the harvesters or consumers. Efficient forage production and utilization are essential to a profitable operation. Below are helpful keys to a profitable forage program:

- Know your animal’s nutritional needs and the forage options available to you.
- Always use good quality seed.
- Test soil prior to planting; fertilize/lime according to soil test results.
- Consider what advantages legumes offer your operation, and do it on a field-by-field basis.
- Emphasize forage quality to better meet your animals’ nutritional needs.
- Prevent/minimize pests and plant-related disorders that reduce quality and quantity of production.
- Improve pasture utilization; match stocking rates with forage production.
- Results require investments. The best and most profitable forage programs usually have had the most thought and effort put into them. Investments include: thought, time, effort, money, management.

(Edited from an article by the U of MO Extension, 2013)



Interested in discussing topics in this newsletter, or want to do a better job feeding and managing your cows Call W-S Feed & Supplies! Our goal is to help you. That’s the W-S commitment!

VOLUME 1 – Number 2 – May 2013
THE TEAM FOR RESULTS

Prepare for HEAT!

Summer will soon be here! Plans need to be developed *now* to provide relief from heat and humidity for your dairy cows. High producing cows are the most vulnerable to the damaging effects of heat stress. Milk production decreases as heat stress increases; actually a greater economic loss is the reduction in conception rate as the heat stress rises. First and foremost in planning is that cows need to be protected from direct sun. A shading system must be designed properly so that the animals have full access to quality feed and cool, clean water while in the shade. Sufficient floor space is essential in this area. Aspects of natural ventilation need to be addressed to further enhance any shaded area. Tackle heat stress this summer with an effective shade, fan and/or evaporative cooling system, along with a carefully formulated ration designed to improve energy and dry matter intake, while increasing cow performance. We will be happy to review your program before summer!

Temperature °F	°C	% Relative Humidity																			
		0	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75	80	85	90	95
72	22.0	64	65	65	65	66	66	67	67	67	68	68	69	69	69	70	70	71	71	72	72
73	23.0	65	65	66	66	66	67	67	68	68	69	69	70	70	71	71	72	72	73	73	73
74	23.5	65	66	66	67	67	67	68	68	69	69	70	70	71	71	72	72	73	73	74	74
75	24.0	66	66	67	67	68	68	68	69	69	70	70	71	71	72	72	73	73	74	74	75
76	24.5	66	67	67	68	68	69	69	70	70	71	71	72	72	73	73	74	74	75	75	76
77	25.0	67	67	68	68	69	69	70	70	71	71	72	72	73	73	74	74	75	75	76	77
78	25.5	67	68	68	69	69	70	70	71	71	72	72	73	73	74	74	75	75	76	76	77
79	26.0	67	68	69	69	70	70	71	71	72	72	73	73	74	74	75	75	76	76	77	78
80	26.5	68	69	69	70	70	71	71	72	72	73	73	74	74	75	75	76	76	77	78	79
81	27.0	68	69	70	70	71	71	72	72	73	73	74	74	75	75	76	76	77	78	78	80
82	28.0	69	69	70	71	71	72	72	73	73	74	74	75	75	76	76	77	77	78	79	80
83	28.5	69	70	71	71	72	72	73	73	74	74	75	75	76	76	77	78	78	79	80	81
84	29.0	70	70	71	72	72	73	73	74	74	75	75	76	76	77	78	78	79	80	81	82
85	29.5	70	71	72	72	73	73	74	74	75	75	76	76	77	78	78	79	80	81	82	83
86	30.0	71	71	72	73	73	74	74	75	75	76	76	77	78	78	79	80	81	82	83	84
87	30.5	71	72	73	73	74	74	75	75	76	76	77	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85
88	31.0	72	72	73	74	74	75	75	76	76	77	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86
89	31.5	72	73	74	75	75	76	76	77	78	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	86	88
90	32.0	72	73	74	75	76	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	85	86	87	88	89
91	33.0	73	74	75	76	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	85	86	87	88	89	90
92	33.5	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	85	86	87	88	89	90	91
93	34.0	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93
94	34.5	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	94
95	35.0	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	95
96	35.5	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	96
97	36.0	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	91	92	93	94	95	97
98	36.5	76	77	78	80	80	82	83	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	91	92	93	94	95	98
99	37.0	76	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	99
100	38.0	77	78	79	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	98	100
101	38.5	77	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	92	93	94	95	96	98	101
102	39.0	78	79	80	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	94	95	96	97	98	101
103	39.5	78	79	81	82	83	84	86	87	88	89	91	92	93	94	96	97	98	99	101	102
104	40.0	79	80	81	83	84	85	86	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	99	100	101	103
105	40.5	79	80	82	83	84	86	87	88	89	91	92	93	95	96	97	99	100	101	102	103
106	41.0	80	81	82	84	85	87	88	89	90	91	93	94	95	97	98	99	101	102	103	104
107	41.5	80	81	83	84	85	87	88	89	91	92	94	95	96	98	99	100	102	103	104	106
108	42.0	81	82	83	85	86	88	89	90	92	93	94	96	97	99	100	101	103	104	105	108
109	43.0	81	82	84	85	87	89	89	91	92	94	95	96	98	99	101	102	103	105	106	109
110	43.5	81	83	84	86	87	89	90	91	93	94	96	97	99	100	101	103	104	106	107	109
111	44.0	82	83	85	86	88	90	91	92	94	95	96	98	99	101	102	104	105	107	108	111
112	44.5	82	84	85	87	89	90	91	92	93	95	96	98	99	101	102	104	105	107	108	111
113	45.0	83	84	86	87	89	91	92	93	95	96	98	99	101	102	104	105	107	108	110	113
114	45.5	83	85	86	88	89	92	92	94	96	97	99	100	102	103	105	106	108	109	111	114
115	46.0	84	85	87	88	90	92	93	95	96	98	99	101	102	103	105	106	108	110	111	114
116	46.5	84	86	87	89	90	93	94	95	97	98	100	102	103	105	106	108	110	111	113	114
117	47.0	85	86	88	89	91	93	94	96	98	99	101	102	103	105	106	108	110	111	113	117
118	48.0	85	87	88	90	92	94	95	97	99	100	102	103	105	106	108	110	111	113	115	118
119	48.5	85	87	89	90	92	94	96	97	99	101	102	104	106	107	109	111	112	114	116	119
120	49.0	86	88	89	91	93	95	96	98	100	101	103	105	106	108	110	111	113	115	117	120

Stress Threshold Respiration rate exceeds 60 BPM. Milk yield losses begin. Repro losses detectable. Rectal temperature exceeds 38.5°C (101.3°F)
 Mild-Moderate Stress Respiration rate exceeds 75 BPM. Rectal temperature exceeds 38°C (102.2°F)
 Moderate-Severe Stress Respiration rate exceeds 85 BPM. Rectal temperature exceeds 40°C (104°F)
 Severe Stress Respiration rate 120-140 BPM. Rectal temperature exceeds 41°C (106°F)



W-S Feed & Supplies, Ltd.
 1805 Sawmill Road
 Conestogo, ON N0B 1N0
 Canada
www.wsfeeds.ca
Taking service to another level



May 2013
A Tale of Birds!
Temperature Humidity Index Chart
Prepare for Heat!
CHECK IT OUT!