

## Nutrition Management Considerations for Cow/Calf in Deep Bedded Buildings

### 1. Feed Sourcing and Cost (Quantity, Quality, and Cost)

-Homegrown Forages (Common in Iowa)

- Corn Silage Benefits: High tonnage per acre/Good Energy source
- Alfalfa Benefits: Perennial plant/High Protein/Good Nutrient Source
- Ryelage Benefits: Good filler/Can be double cropped/Cover Crop
- Sorghum Benefits: Good filler/Good energy Source/Good tonnage
- Grass Hay: Good Nutrients/Dry Matter
- Bagging increases quality (especially of Ryelage, haylage, and Sorghum)

Sorghum)

-Cost (If it's grown on the farm, it's cheaper than buying it)

-Balance Rations

-Test forages and feed

-Supplement Energy and Protein only if needed (Distillers, gluten, corn)

-Balanced Ration that takes into account different stages of development

-Provide adequate vitamins and minerals as ration requires

-Recommend adding mineral to ration and utilizing salt blocks

### 2. Gestation

-Moderate Energy and Protein, while maintaining quality nutrition and body condition

-Well balanced ration that provides correct amounts of vitamins and minerals for fetal development

-There is a product (Farmatan) available that may help reduce the occurrence of scours that needs to be fed 60-90 days prior to calving (Plan ahead)

### 3. Calving-Breeding

-These stages blend together especially when in a building

-Scour prevention is key Farmatan or Biomox (for ecoli) are good options for feed supplements that may help prevent scours along with a good vaccination program, and a clean building

-chelated trace minerals help with immune function

-Vitamins A, D, & E are crucial (don't skimp)

-The need for energy in the ration increases after calving and we've seen excellent results in conception from increased energy levels as well, especially on first calf heifers

-body condition must be kept up through calving and breeding to have the best conception rates

-a huge benefit of a building is control. It's easier to help a cow having difficulty calving, and also easier to AI heifers and cows

### 4. Rumensin

-We recommend feeding rumensin (monensin) whenever cattle are in the building.

-Rumensin is proven to increase feed efficiency by 10%

-It also decreases the amount of coccidia shed in the manure which helps decrease the risk of coccidiosis

### 5. Weaning

-calves are consuming a similar ration before and after weaning so fewer major changes occur in the gut which means less stress

-calves weaned in a building seem to wean faster, easier, and calmer

-easier to get in and treat if one does get sick

There are obviously more specific considerations and adjustments that can be made to your nutrition management program and I would recommend speaking with your vet or nutritionist for more details.

You can also call me at 712-621-1887 if you have any questions.

