

# Why you must plan what your cows eat, to optimise production.

Neglecting feed planning at the outset can render your investment unfeasible, potentially leading to operational losses or farm closure. A meticulous approach to feed planning is thus essential, involving consideration of all feed elements to formulate a comprehensive feeding regimen.

At the inception of your dairy farm, it's imperative to ascertain the dietary requirements of your cows. This understanding informs decisions regarding the cultivation or procurement of feed sources. Ideally, cultivating fodder on-site is optimal as it minimizes costs and cultivates profitability. When feed is grown on your own farm, the opportunity for profit increases, as purchasing feed can escalate production costs.

## **Effective Feed Planning**

In scenarios of smaller-scale dairy farming, cultivating every type of fodder may not be feasible. Consequently, purchasing fodder becomes a necessity. However, even when buying feed, it's vital to ensure that a profit margin can still be maintained. In such cases, a calculated approach is crucial. Assess the costs associated with each element in the feed regimen, focusing on cultivating the most expensive components while procuring the more cost-effective ones. This strategy contributes to reducing the overall production cost.

Additionally, strategize the timing of fodder procurement. It's advisable to purchase feed when it's not only more affordable but also of higher quality. For instance, rose grass is more cost-effective and of better quality during its peak season compared to off-season periods.

Diverse cows at varying stages of lactation require different feed quantities. Tailoring feed quantities based on factors like live weight, productivity potential, and lactation stage is key. This approach facilitates efficient planning by establishing accurate feed requirements, predicting feed availability, and optimizing productivity.

Constantly assessing the cost of feeds through production and purchase records aids in informed planning. By analyzing production and procurement costs, you can make strategic decisions to align with your profitability objectives.

In essence, meticulous feed planning is a cornerstone of successful dairy farming. Careful consideration of various factors, strategic procurement, and adaptive adjustments will enable your farm to operate efficiently, maintaining both productivity and profitability.