

RATION COST SAVINGS

HERD:

Rambling Acres,
Stetsonville, WI

PROBLEM:

Milk components varied significantly, despite consistent milk production



Rambling Acres consistently averages 95 pounds of milk per cow year-round, with periods of 100 pounds plus. But despite this stellar milk production, components would continuously vary.

- » Butterfat levels varied from 3.65 to 3.10, despite the target of a 3.65.
- » Protein levels hit around 2.90, but the target was to stay above 3.0.
- » At the time the ration consisted of corn silage, snaplage and dried shell corn.
- » This herd also struggled each spring as corn silage became fully fermented. Butterfat levels would crash and then it would take time and effort to get them back.
- » The herd decided to run a starch digestibility test using Calibrate® technologies to see if they could eliminate some of the variability.
- » Results from the starch digestibility test allowed the herd to remove all of the snaplage and most of the dried shell corn from the ration, a savings of 20 cents per cow per day.
- » For the past year, the herd has consistently achieved more than 95 pounds of milk and component levels have exceeded previous goals. Butterfat now stays above 3.65, while protein has steadfastly held between 3.10 and 3.20.
- » Corn previously used in the ration is now sold, opening up an additional income source for this operation.
- » Rambling Acres continues to run starch digestibility tests every couple weeks and when any new feed ingredient is introduced.

Results from the starch digestibility test, along with Calibrate's online nutritional calculator, allowed the herd to remove all of the snaplage and most of the dried shell corn from the ration, a savings of **20¢ PER COW PER DAY***



WITH A HERD OF 250 MILKING COWS, YOU COULD SAVE \$18,250 A YEAR.*

"This program helped me to challenge myself as a nutritionist to feed lower starch diets. It is possible to formulate diets with low starch and get results. Calibrate® technologies has helped me to be more confident in my ration formulation."

Vernon Metcalf, Nutritionist

* Because of factors outside of Forage Genetic's control, such as weather, applicator error, etc., results to be obtained, including but not limited to yields, financial performance, or profits, cannot be predicted or guaranteed by Forage Genetics International, LLC. Results will vary.

SOLUTION:

Calibrate® Technologies



CALIBRATE®

Making ration adjustments based on insight from Calibrate® technology allowed Rambling Acres to:

- » Obtain consistent butterfat and protein levels year round.
- » Reduce ration cost by 20 cents per cow per day.
- » Eliminate the need for shell corn, opening opportunity for the farm to sell excess corn.

"(Rambling Acres has) been experimenting with corn silage varieties and playing around with the varieties by adjusting the ratio of each kind in the ration using Calibrate® technologies. The results have put different corn silage hybrids into perspective. This information has helped this dairy figure out what to plant for the coming year".

Vernon Metcalf, Nutritionist

MANAGE HIGH INPUT AND FEED COSTS.

STABILIZE INCONSISTENT MILK COMPONENTS.

OVERCOME THE CHALLENGE OF FEEDING MORE FORAGE.

NO MATTER WHAT YOUR GOAL, CALIBRATE® TECHNOLOGIES CAN HELP.