

INCREASE DIETARY ENERGY SAFELY

HERD:

Barr Farms
Greencastle, PA

PROBLEM:

Herd recently achieved new level of milk production and was looking for ways to maintain both milk production and components.



One year after Barr Farms changed nutritionists, the herd hit a new level of milk production it had not seen in a long time. Now the farm was in need of tools to help maintain this production level.

- » Ration adjustments the year prior had allowed the herd to gain 15 additional pounds of milk per cow, moving from the mid 60's to the low 80's for pounds of milk production.
- » Despite this stellar improvement, the herd and its nutritionist were looking for ways to maintain milk production.
- » Butterfat levels would waver from time to time from a 3.5 to 3.7 down to 3.3.
- » Calibrate® technologies was introduced to run a starch digestibility test to determine if they could eliminate some of the variability in butterfat levels, as well as maintain milk production.

- » Results from the starch digestibility test, used in combination with the online calculator, has given the herd nutritionist additional information on the ration ingredients allowing the herd to consistently average 80 pounds and eliminate the wavering in component levels.
- » Barr Farms continues to run starch digestibility tests once a month and when any new feed ingredient is introduced.

"Calibrate® technologies has given me the confidence to aggressively formulate the ration because I have more information on the ingredients. We're now feeding a ration that I wouldn't have felt comfortable with before using Calibrate® technologies. I have the insights I need, and it has helped me maintain high milk production in this herd."

Jason Leonard, a nutritionist from Pennsylvania

SOLUTION:

Calibrate® Technologies



Making ration adjustments based on insight from Calibrate® technologies allowed Barr Farms to:

- » Obtain consistent component levels year round.
- » Maintain a higher level of milk production.
- » Increase overall herd profit potential.

Leonard recalls that one time when butterfat levels did drop, Calibrate® technologies allowed him to find out the true cause of depression right away.

*"In many situations I would have pulled the grain right away. But the information from the starch test showed me it was a fiber problem. I was able to adjust the forages instead of pulling energy out of the diet," he says. **As a result milk production levels were maintained and butterfat levels were regained very quickly.***

MANAGE HIGH INPUT AND FEED COSTS.

STABILIZE INCONSISTENT MILK COMPONENTS.

OVERCOME THE CHALLENGE OF FEEDING MORE FORAGE.

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