

Reduced Ration Sorting

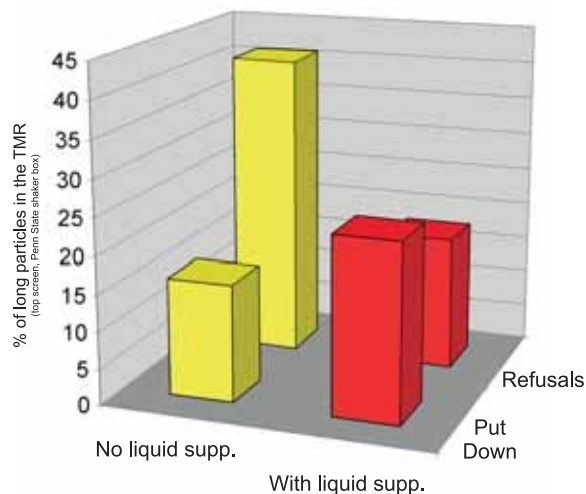
The goal is to provide a TMR that is uniformly mixed and that stays mixed. Ideally, every bite consumed by the cow will contain the same relative proportions of each ingredient.

We need to maximise intake of a balance of protein, energy, fibre, minerals, vitamins, and additives to achieve optimal milk, health, efficiency and cow longevity.

The graph summarizes data from 5 herds. It shows the amount of long particles collected on the Top Screen of a Penn State Shaker Box when the TMR is first fed (Put Down) vs. feed rejected by stock at the end of the feed period (Refusals). This is compared when no liquid is fed as against feeding a liquid at 0.9 kg/hd/day.

There is a dramatic difference in top screen content in refusals between the two treatments. This indicates that the TMR containing liquid supplement was sorted less against the long fibre fraction of the ration, resulting in more uniform overall ration intake and particularly, better intake of the long fibre particles.

**Sorting Comparison:
TMR with or without liquid supplement
inclusion. (5 Herd Summary)**



Source: Shaver, AFIA Liquid Feed Symposium 2001



So, what are the benefits of controlling ration sorting and ensuring adequate fibre intake?

- 🔥 **Reduced feed costs**
- 🔥 **Maintain normal milk component production**
- 🔥 **Maintain normal rumen Function**

Component Milk Pricing Makes Rumen Health More Important		
Rumen Status	Subclinical Acidosis	Healty Rumen
Milking Cows	500	500
Milk, kg/cow/day	30.4	33.1
Milk fat, %	3.4	3.7
Milk true protein, %	2.8	2.9
Monthly Income, £	68,547	78,452
Monthly Income Differential, £		9905

Source: Hoard's Dairyman, January 10, 2000