### Dairy Herd Forage Needs Worksheet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>(A) Number of Animals</th>
<th>(B) BW, lbs.</th>
<th>(C) Forage DMI, % BW</th>
<th>(D) Daily Forage DMI, lbs./cow (B*C/100)</th>
<th>(E) Days in Period</th>
<th>(F) Total Forage DM, lbs./cow (D*E)</th>
<th>(G) Total Forage DM, Tons/cow (F/2000)</th>
<th>(H) Feeding Loss, %</th>
<th>(I) Adjusted Forage DM/tons/cow ((100+H)*G)/100</th>
<th>(J) Group Forage DM, tons (A*I)</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Milking</td>
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<td>Calves</td>
<td>&lt; 2 months</td>
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<td>Heifers</td>
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<td>Heifers</td>
<td>&gt; 12 months</td>
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**Notes:**
- Guidelines for forage dry matter intake as % of body weight
  - Milking cows = 1.5 – 2.5%
  - Dry cows = 1.2 – 1.7%
  - Heifers = 1.0 – 2%
- Feeding loss – This needs to be reported to increase the quantity of forage required due to feeding losses. Values of 5 – 10% are reasonable.
- Calves < 2 months of age are usually fed little or no forage. However, they should be counted as a specific group and the number recorded rather than including them in the group < 12 months of age.
- Sample calculations are on the back of this worksheet.
- This table does not account for forage storage losses prior to feeding.
Sample Calculations:

a. 1,400 lb. dairy cow
b. Forage feeding rate is 2% of body weight
c. 100 cows in the group
d. Planning period is 365 days
e. Feeding loss = 5%

1. Daily forage dry matter intake/cow = (1,400 * 2)/100 = 28 lbs.
2. Total forage DMI/cow for the total period = 28 * 365 = 10,220 lbs. forage DM
3. Total forage DM/ tons/cow for the total period = 10,220/2,000 = 5.11 tons of forage DM
4. Tons of forage DM needed adjusted for feeding loss =
   i. 100 + 5 = 105
   ii. 105 * 5.11 = 536.55
   iii. 536.55/100 = 5.3655
5. Group forage DM needs = 5.3655 * 100 = 536.55 tons of forage DM for the 365 day planning period

Source:
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