

ABSTRACTS
*** Author Presenting Paper**

107 Feeding management of the dairy herds for 40000-lb. milk/ year. Ofer Kroll*, *Hachaklait & Israel Cattle Breeders Association.*

Feeding and managing high yielding cows is a complex multi-facade undertaking. Formulating a diet for high-yielding cows consists of many factors: energy levels, dry mater intake, protein quantity and quality, ratio between energy and protein, forage quality and particle length. Correct balance of the formulated diet is the primary tool in production of high milk yields. The cow's comfort is another important aspect of management, which includes: grouping criteria, bedding material, number of cows in each group, size of area assigned to each animal and the accessibility of food and water. These factors can effect yield a great deal. Animal health, mainly during the transition period and economical conditions are also very important factors effecting diet formulation, management decisions and therefore milk yield. Additionally, feeding strategy can be viewed as a major limiting factor in optimizing milk production of high yielding cows. TMR feeding system, in which cows are grouped according to yield potential, parity and body condition may serve as the best method in management of large herds. Whereas individual feeding system might be best fitting for implementation as feeding and management strategies in small herds. Minimal changes of diet in mid lactation are an important tool in achieving and maintaining high yields in both systems. Tools such as bST and protected nutrients (amino acids, fat, mineral and vitamins) can be used to increase production. Nevertheless maximum dry matter intake and inclusion of a large variety of ingredients in the diet are needed to maximize the beneficial effect of such products. In conclusion, achieving high yields require the implementation of the following managerial recommendations: 1. Maintain a uniform diet and avoid abrupt changes. 2. Include a large variety of ingredients in the diet at all times. 3. Maintain the correct energy/protein ratio to control body condition and weight. 4. Reach maximum dry matter intake. 5. Avoid metabolic disorders by a proper dry cow feeding management. 6. Make sure to raise your heifers to the adequate size and condition. 7. Do your best for the comfort of the cows.

Key Words: Diet formulation, cow comfort, feeding strategy