

**ABSTRACTS**  
**\* Author Presenting Paper**

**108 Feeding management of the 40,000 pound dairy herds.** M.F. Hutjens\*, *University of Illinois, Urbana.*

Feed costs represents 40 to 60 percent of total production costs. Feed delivery systems vary depending on herd size, forage system, housing, labor availability, and economic investment. The following aspects will be discussed as dairy managers, veterinarians, consultants, and feed company/cooperatives design feeding systems, meet nutrient needs, and economically produce milk on U.S. dairy farms while competing in a world market place.

· Optimizing forage levels and types on dairy farms (emphasis on economics) · Monitoring dry matter intake (emphasis on feed efficiency) · Delivering nutrients to the mammary gland (emphasis on bioavailability) · Processing forages and grain (emphasis on nutrient availability) · Predicting rumen fermentation (emphasis on rumen environment, energy production, and amino acid flow) · Reducing fecal and urine losses (emphasis on environmental risk) · Balancing of milk components (emphasis on federal milk marketing orders) · Reducing metabolic disorders (emphasis on transition cow management) · Manipulating body condition score (emphasis on weight changes and trends) · Evaluating feed costs (emphasis on economic measurements) · Monitoring cow behavior and feed sorting (emphasis on nutrient intake) · Optimizing cow comfort and environment (emphasis on nutrient balance) · Assessing the role feed additives (emphasis on economics and function)

**Key Words:** dairy, feed management, dry matter intake