

2012 DROUGHT: A DAIRY CATTLE NUTRITION PERSPECTIVE

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The 2012 drought generated many dairy cattle feeding related questions, especially in southern Wisconsin. Harvest and storage issues emerged and disappeared as the cropping year progressed, while feeding issues linger through feed out. The situation has been exacerbated by very high corn, soybean meal, forage, and byproduct feedstuff prices for those needing to purchase more feed unexpectedly due to the drought. Below is a list of sub-topics for discussion from a dairy cattle nutrition perspective at the conference.

- Feed inventory
- Harvest of immature drought-stressed corn as silage
- Pricing drought-stressed corn silage
- FeedVal 2012
- Nitrates
- Corn smut
- Emergency cover crops for forage
- Feeding wheat grain
- Feeding potatoes
- Variation corn silage NDF and starch contents within silos
- Minimizing feed shrink
- Feeding minimum-forage diets to milking cows
- Feeding reduced-starch diets to milking cows
- Byproduct feed usage
- Controlling feed use and cost in replacement heifer diets
- Chemically treated corn stover
- Aflatoxin
- Starch digestibility

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