

FEEDS AND NUTRITION COURSE 2019

ZAANDAM | THE NETHERLANDS | JUNE 3 - 7, 2019

'The course is specially designed for animal nutrition specialists'

MODULE 16 | FEEDING MANAGEMENT AND RATION FORMULATION DAIRY

High yielding dairy cows require optimal management and ration composition. Animal appearance and behaviour tells a lot about feeding management on a farm. Feeding management has a clear impact on feed intake and production, health, fertility and longevity. To further optimise ration composition nutritionists formulate rations for the lowest costs possible while meeting all nutrient requirements and feedstuff restrictions at the actual market prices of feedstuffs. However, diet optimisation is not that simple. You always need to consider your specific situation including variation in forage quality and performance of the animals.

Learning objective

- To learn about the impact of feeding management on feed intake and milk production.
- To understand CowSignals® as tool for improvement of feeding management and increase production fertility health and longevity.
- To be able to optimise nutrient composition of diets and meet animal recommendations using ration calculation software.

FRIDAY JUNE 7

16.1 Welcome and introduction

16.2 Feeding management and CowSignals®

In this presentation the importance of understanding cows and their signals is explained by showing practical examples. Understanding the cow and her interaction with the farmer and the impact of the housing and feeding conditions will help improve production, reduce diseases and increase fertility and longevity. The motto of this presentation is happy cow, happy farmer, happy planet.

16.3 Feeding intake regulation

In this theme the factors that affect feed intake regulation is presented. First feed intake models are discussed and then the influence of animal parameters, feeding management and environmental factor are described and quantified.

16.4 Optimising ration composition

A short introduction of the principles of ration optimisation will be presented in this section. What information is required to further use in ration calculation software and which steps need to be taken to come to a ration composition that is optimised to increase milk yield, improve milk components or health and fertility?



16.5 Introduction to ration optimisation software

For the afternoon session we will use the software of the ROVECOM company. In this presentation a short introduction to the FeedExpert program is provided, so that in the next session this software can be used to understand ration optimisation and provide least cost solutions.

16.6 Ration optimisation: case studies

In this workshop the participants will work in couples on different case studies to optimise dairy cow rations using the Feed Expert program and the SFR dairy feed evaluation parameters. The importance of forage quality and compound feed (ingredients) will be demonstrated.

Trainers: Bert Niejenhuis (Vetvice), Wilfried van Straalen, Edwin Westreicher-Kristen, Janita van der Vinne (ROVECOM), Marius-Hans Troost (ROVECOM)

Remarks:

- Please be aware that SFR recommendations will not be presented during this module.
- Since this module will use information from previous modules it is advised to follow module 14 Advanced dairy nutrition and/or module 15 Applied dairy nutrition as preparation.

