

Am I overlooking some ways to save money with EZfeed? #SavingMoney

Bunk Management

The Bunk Management tool in EZfeed is a powerful tool if you know how to set it up and how to use it. It can help you improve the consistency of your ration from day to day and thus improve your production and feed efficiency.

Look here in the Help for detailed instructions...

The screenshot shows the EZfeed software interface. The 'Help' menu is open, with 'Program Updates...' highlighted. A red circle with the number '1' points to the 'Help' menu item, and another red circle with the number '2' points to the 'Program Updates...' option. Below the menu is a table with columns for Pen, Feeding, Load(s), and various cost and efficiency metrics.

Pen	Feeding	Load(s)				Fed/Pen	% of Base All Rtns	% of Daily Total DmFed	Cost \$/Hd	DmFed/Hc
PEN 1	1 Feeding(s)	0 Load(s)	486	94.49	50.70	46,022	103.99 %	100.00 %	\$5.81	48.56
PEN 2	1 Feeding(s)	0 Load(s)	491	99.71	53.50	45,921	104.40 %	100.00 %	\$5.83	48.56
PEN 3	1 Feeding(s)	0 Load(s)	444	109.64	59.50	48,956	110.17 %	100.00 %	\$6.15	48.56
PEN 4	1 Feeding(s)	0 Load(s)	0	110.56	60.00	48,679	100.83 %	100.00 %	\$6.70	59.01
PEN 5	1 Feeding(s)	0 Load(s)	0	48.55	25.00	0	101.68 %	100.00 %	\$6.76	59.01
PEN 6	1 Feeding(s)	0 Load(s)	439	111.48	60.50	0	75.73 %	100.00 %	\$2.01	33.01
PEN 8	1 Feeding(s)	0 Load(s)	489	112.40	61.00	48,940	102.52 %	100.00 %	\$6.81	59.01
PEN 9	1 Feeding(s)	0 Load(s)	488	108.72	59.00	54,965	103.37 %	100.00 %	\$6.87	59.01
PEN 10	1 Feeding(s)	0 Load(s)	488	103.19	56.00	53,054	99.98 %	100.00 %	\$6.65	59.01
PEN 11	1 Feeding(s)	0 Load(s)	488	103.19	56.00	50,356	94.90 %	100.00 %	\$6.31	59.01
PEN 12	1 Feeding(s)	0 Load(s)	487	103.19	56.00	50,253	94.90 %	100.00 %	\$6.31	59.01
PEN 13	1 Feeding(s)	0 Load(s)	468	95.82	52.00	44,843	88.12 %	100.00 %	\$5.86	59.01

You will be able to find a lot of information to get you going.

The screenshot shows the 'EZfeed for Windows Help Documentation' window. The 'Contents' pane is expanded to show the 'Feed Bunk Management' section, which is highlighted with a red box. A red circle with the number '1' points to the 'Updates - 2010 - 3rd quarter' folder, and another red circle with the number '2' points to the 'Feed Bunk Management' folder.

- Updates - 2012 - 2nd quarter
- Updates - 2011 - 2nd quarter
- Updates - 2011 - 1st quarter
- Updates - 2010 - 4th quarter
- Updates - 2010 - 3rd quarter
- Feed Bunk Management**
 - Getting Started - Feed Bunk Management Setup
 - Creating and Editing Bunk Management Profiles
 - Bunk Management Profiles: Previous Intake Settings
 - Bunk Management Profiles: Appetite Adjustment Settings
 - Bunk Management Profiles: Global Adjustment Settings
 - Bunk Management Profiles: Refusal Left Adjustment Settings
 - Bunk Management Profiles: Target Refusal Adjustment Settings
 - Bunk Management Profiles: Target/Actual Difference Adjustment Settings
 - Bunk Management Profiles: Limits On Adjustments
 - Using the Bunk Management Screen (Daily Bunk Management)
 - Bunk Management - Appetite Adjustments
 - Bunk Management - Global Adjustments
 - Bunk Management - Actual Refusal
 - Bunk Management - Refusal Left Adjustments
 - Bunk Management - Target Refusal Adjustments
 - Bunk Management - Target/Actual Difference Adjustments
 - Bunk Management - Suggested Targets
 - Pen Feed Amounts History
 - Recording Manure Scores
 - Setting Up Refusals for Feed Bunk Management
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Navigation: Updates - 2010 - 3rd quarter >

Feed Bunk Management

Feed Bunk Management has long been one of the more challenging, yet vital components of successful dairy or feedlot management. Poor bunk management will lead to increased waste, increased costs, increased health issues, lower production, lower rates of gain and ultimately less profit. There are many factors that make feed bunk management very challenging. These factors include: appetite changes, left over feed that isn't removed, left over feed from several days that is finally removed, weather changes, pen moves, feeder deviations, ration changes, and the list goes on.

A new Feed Bunk Management 'module' has been added to EZfeed. This module uses 'Bunk Management Profiles' to make **Suggested Target** feed amount changes. These 'profiles' are a set of rules and settings that are used to calculate the new target amounts for each pen that uses a particular Bunk Management Profile. The **Suggested Target** amounts are calculated based on the following settings in each 'Bunk Management Profile':

- Actual **Previous Intakes**
- **Appetite Adjustment** entries
- **Global Adjustment** entries
- **Target Refusal** amounts
- **Refusal Left** in the feed bunks
- Predictable **Differences between Target and Actual Fed** amounts

Feed Bunk Management is facilitated in EZfeed with the following four new screens or forms:

- **Bunk Management screen:** This screen lists each pen, the 'Feed Bunk Management Profile' selected for the pen, several columns detailing the many factors used to determining a new **Suggested Target** amount, and a column with a checkbox indicating you wish to accept the **Suggested Target**. Additionally, there are buttons which open the 'Bunk Management Profile' form, a button to open the **Global Adjustment** form, and buttons to select or apply the selected **Suggested Target** amounts.
- **Bunk Management Profiles form:** This form list the various settings for each profile. Use this form to create or edit the Bunk Management Profiles. Each 'Bunk Management Profile' uses the **Previous Intakes** as the starting point in determining a new **Desired Intake**. Small adjustments are made to the **Desired Intake** in the form of **Appetite Adjustments** and **Global Adjustments**. Then, based on several predictable factors, a new **Suggested Target** amount is calculated that when fed will result in the **Desired Intake**. Each of these adjustments corresponds to a section of columns in the Bunk Management screen (see the color coded screen shot below).
- **Global Adjustments form:** This form is used to enter new **Global Adjustments** or view old **Global Adjustments**.
- **Pen Feed Amounts History slide out:** This slide out form on the right side of the Bunk Management screen shows a two week history (table & graph) of the various feed amounts for the selected pen. Additionally, it shows significant pen count changes, changes in the rations used and changes in the ration composition. See the help topic: [Pen Feed Amounts History](#) for more information.

Pen	Profile	Previous Intake	Appetite Adjustment	Global Adjustment	Desired Intake	Actual Risk (for 09/09)	Risk Left (for 09/09)	Tgt Risk	Tgt Risk Diff	Current Tgt	Suggested Tgt (Pre-Limit)	Suggested Tgt	Suggested Change
Pen 1	BunkProfile1	102.55	-0.50%	-0.58	102.55	-2.23	-2.50	2.50	2.77	100.41	111.16	107.75	-3.41
Pen 2	BunkProfile1	110.32	-0.30%	-0.35	109.99	-2.76	-2.88	2.85	3.33	100.41	111.16	107.75	-3.41
Pen 3	BunkProfile1	115.62	-0.50%	-0.35	114.69	-3.00	-3.13	3.79	0.68	100.41	111.16	107.75	-3.41
Pen 4	BunkProfile1	121.62	-0.60%	-0.73	120.53	-3.00	-3.46	3.46	3.95	100.41	111.16	107.75	-3.41
Pen 5	BunkProfile1	106.92	-0.30%	-0.32	106.60	-2.30	-2.78	2.78	2.98	100.41	111.16	107.75	-3.41
Pen 6	BunkProfile1	109.31	-0.30%	-0.33	109.98	-2.08	-3.10	3.00	1.72	100.41	111.16	107.75	-3.41
Pen 7	BunkProfile1	104.01	-0.30%	-0.31	103.69	-2.08	-2.92	2.57	2.51	100.41	111.16	107.75	-3.41
Pen 8	BunkProfile1	102.28	-0.30%	-0.32	102.96	-2.40	-2.92	2.92	2.07	100.41	111.16	107.75	-3.41

As you look for ways to do things better, we would be glad to help you. If you would like to have one of us connect to your computer and walk through any of these features with you, call your EZfeed representative or call the EZfeed Support line at 1-800-453-9400 ext. 6711