

## Feedbunk Record & Scoring Guide

### Records

Below and on the reverse side are forms for recording feed offered and refused for a pen of cattle. This record is critical for determining feed "calls" and should be kept for each pen of cattle.

Feeder	Ration	Date	Time	Head	Score	Refusals <sup>a</sup>	Offered	Consumed	
JS	5	10-1	7:10a	150	½	50	2400	-----	<sup>a</sup> Estimated or physically weighed
JS	5	10-1	2:15p	150	1 <sup>b</sup>	400 <sup>b</sup>	2400	4550 <sup>c</sup>	<sup>b</sup> PM estimate is not used when making calls. See "Calls" below.
JS	5	10-2	7:00a	150	1	250 <sup>c</sup>	2400	-----	<sup>c</sup> Consumption of 4550 was calculated from 4800 total fed on 10-1 mins 250 refused and recorded on 10-2 AM.
JS	5	10-2	2:20p	150	1	100	2400	4650	
JS	5	10-3	7:00a	150	1	150	2350 <sup>d</sup>	-----	<sup>d</sup> Reduction in feed offered was Based on 2 consecutive AM scores Of "1".
JS	5	10-3	2:15p	150	½	50	2350	4600	
JS	5	10-4	6:55a	150	½	50	2350	-----	
JS	5	10-4	2:10p	150	1	150	2350	4650	
JS	5	10-5	6:55a	150	½	50	2350	-----	

(Diet is 67% dry matter. Amounts are pounds.)

### Scoring

The following feedbunk scoring system was developed by Dr. Robbie Prichard at South Dakota State University.

<u>Score</u>	<u>Description of Feed in Bunk</u>
0	No feed remaining in bunk.
½	Scattered feed present. Most of the bottom of the bunk is exposed.
1	A thin, uniform layer of feed across the bottom of the bunk; typically 1 kernel remains.
2	25 to 50% of the previous days feeding is remaining.
3	Crown of feed is thoroughly disturbed. Over 50% of the previous days feeding remains.
4	Feed is virtually untouched. Crown of previous days feed is still noticeable.

(Estimate the amount of feed remaining and record when scores are "1/2" or greater.)

### Calls

Base all "calls" on feedbunk scores made at only one time of the day. For example, use the AM score to set the amount of feed to deliver that day. Scores made at the PM feeding are optional and are only to be recorded. The PM amounts are useful in determining how to split the daily feeding (for example, 50:50, 60:40, 40:60 splits). The amount of feed offered at the PM feeding should be determined at the AM "call". When feed should be increased, increased no more than .5 pounds of dry matter (DM) per head every three days (.33 lb of DM is safer and preferred). With two consecutive days of a "1" score, reduce feed offered by .5 lb of DM per head every two days until a score of "1/2" is achieved. Scores of "2 to 4" require feed to be reduced by an estimate of feed remaining. One should weigh remaining feed until they learn how to accurately estimate the amounts remaining. One should not remove the feed remaining in the bunks at the PM feeding or alter/adjust the amounts fed at the PM feeding. These PM amounts will vary considerably more than AM amounts because of consumption patterns that change within the day that are affected by temperature, humidity, chill factor, etc. Monitor the time of day feed was offered and the feeder to determine if these items are affecting consumption. The head per pen and ration DM will allow calculation of DM intake, which is important to know when formulating diets. Refer to the "Beef Briefs" entitled **Feedbunk Management** for more information.

