

WORKSHEET III: WINTER FEED AND FORAGE DEMANDS

And

WORKSHEET V: FALL FEED AND FORAGE DEMANDS

Explanation and Guidance

The easiest way to enter this information is to first use a sheet of notebook or printer paper to make a list of each bunch or group (class) of cattle that you will winter together and a list of each group that will spend the fall (from weaning until you start your winter program) together. If you divide your mature cows or any other class into more than one bunch for the winter, you would list each bunch separately. If these separate bunches are lumped together in the fall they will comprise one Class on the fall list. Once you have made a rough list, print out Worksheet III and Worksheet V, and move on to the paragraphs below, to fill in both Worksheet III and V. You can fill out one at a time or you can follow one class of cattle through both periods, however is easier for you. (See the example sheets for help. All WINTER feed and forage is shown in purple and all FALL feed and forage is shown in orange.)

CLASS NUMBER: Since you will sometimes have more than one group of the same class of cattle, as when you feed your cows in several groups, each group of cattle (sometimes mixed groups of more than one class) is assigned a **Class Number**. Once you assign a class number to a defined group of cattle, that number should define that group for as long as it is together. Through the winter, some groups will disappear gradually and new groups will appear, also gradually, as when you start with 200 mature cows to calve and move them out after they calve, to form a new group of "mature cow pairs" or "mature cow pairs - heifers" and "mature cow pairs - steers". Depending upon how you feed these groups, you may still have one group that you feed exactly the same diet, but in two different locations (in which case you would keep the original Class Number), or you may end up with the first group gone and two new groups, each with a different Class Number and each being fed the same or a different diet. Class Numbers allow you to divide your cattle into as many or as few winter feeding groups (or any other groups at any time of the year) as makes sense to you. They also allow you to keep those groups or to end one and start another, or to depopulate one as it morphs into another, new group, and to plan for and allocate feed, forage, and supplement to those groups for management purposes. Fall groupings are usually somewhat easier to define since cows are dry for spring calving herds and you probably have bigger bunches grazing together. If you have a fall calving herd and a spring calving herd, or you calve everything in the fall, you simply assign classes to each group for the appropriate period and move on. If you intend at some point to add the Commercial Cow and Calf Data (C3D) software to your system it will help you assign these numbers and also to keep track of how each class performs each year. The software will also make these worksheets interactive.

ANIMAL CLASS: For these Worksheets, designate as many classes as you will feed as groups for the Winter demands Worksheet, and as many classes as you will have for the Fall period for the Fall demands Worksheet. Some of you feed everything together without ever having more than one bunch. In that case you might have just one Class Number and one Animal Class; Class Number = 1, Animal Class = Cattle for both Worksheets. You may still need several or many lines for **Ref. Codes** to describe what you will feed them and from where and where they will get fall forage, but the Class Number and Animal Class will stay the same.

For most, there will be several Animal Classes. Here are several, and you may have others:

Steer Calves, weaned	First Calf Heifers	Cow Pairs
Steer Yearlings	Second Calvers	Culls
Heifer calves, weaned	Young Cows 4-7 Dry	Bulls < 3
Heifer Yearlings	Mature Cows 8-10 Dry	Bulls > 3
Replacement Heifer Calves, weaned	Old Cows 11+ Dry	Horses
Bred Heifers	Heifer Pairs	Odd Lots (milk cow, leppies)

You may have more than one group of any Animal Class. Simply assign each group a different number. If you plan to change the feeding regime of any group, you can plan for that by terminating the group and starting a new group, or by using the **To be Fed Dates** columns to show (by filling in the other information) when and how the change will be accomplished. If an animal class will change (perhaps from "Mature cows 8-10 Dry", to "Cow Pairs") you can depopulate one group and populate the other, or, if you will feed about the same all the way through the winter, you can have an Animal Class called "Mature Cows", and leave it at that. Make the designations and classes as useful in your own operation as you like and that are meaningful to you.

NUMBER: This is simply the number of animals in the group to use for planning purposes and calculating feed needs. If you will gradually depopulate a class or group, rather than using the total number you start with, you can use an average number so your feed or forage calculations can be made for the average number rather than the largest number. The same applies to a new class or group that will gradually grow, such as a pairs group.

TO BE FED: (FROM: TO: AND TOTAL DAYS): If you will feed the group the same hay from the same pile or the group will be on the same fall pasture (the same Ref. Code. from Worksheet II for Winter or Worksheet IV for Fall) for the entire period, you can simply enter the start date, and the end date and the total number of days. If the feed will come from various sources (different Ref. Codes) you will predict which feeds or forage will be utilized when and enter the dates and the total days for each Ref. Code on its own line, and then fill in the other pertinent information to correspond with that feed.

AMOUNT PER DAY: This can be expressed in any way that makes sense to you. "Tons", "3-tie bales", "3X4 bales", "mixer wagon loads", "AUMs", "30 lb. as fed", whatever makes sense. Remember though to use units that are compatible with the units you used on Worksheet I and transferred to Worksheets II and IV. If the units on line D3 are in 3X4 bales and you know how much they each weigh, you could use tons here and be okay. If the units on line H2 are in AUMs you will be hard pressed to easily convert that to 2-tie bales.

FIELD OR SOURCE: This information comes directly from Worksheet II or Worksheet IV. You would first enter the Ref. Code. If all of this group's winter feed is going to come from one Source and one Ref. Code, you will need just one line on this Worksheet. If several Sources will be needed you can use as many lines as you need to enter the information here, one Ref. Code per line, which makes it easier to fill in the next column, Total Feed Allocated by Source. (There are intentionally no horizontal lines on the Worksheets to denote separate entries. That allows you to use as many lines as you need to complete one entry, draw your own line, and go to the next entry.)

TOTAL FEED ALLOCATED: If you are going to use up an entire Ref. Code for this group of animals, you can write "All" in this column. If you will not use all of it, you can calculate by figuring how many bales per day you will feed and multiplying that by the total number of days this Ref. Code will be fed, or by counting the number of days you used a winter pasture, especially if you recorded its Form in days on

Worksheet II or IV. This is important. On the Winter Demands Worksheet (III) it will tell you if you will have enough to execute your plan, if you will have some carryover that you might use this fall, which you could pencil in on Worksheet V, or if you will have a deficit that you will need to make up. If you have 300 tons of 3-tie bales and you need only 250 to meet this need, you will have 50 tons for something else, or to carry over.