

# STEP BY STEP GUIDE TO: OBTAINING A LEAST COST FEEDING SOLUTION

Actual actions within the system are italicized and *red* in this document.

## Reviewing a report indicating a deficiency situation

1. Go to the main home page at <http://cnrit.tamu.edu/autosystem>.
2. Click on the *LOGIN HERE* link.
3. Select the appropriate login, for example: *Login as Herd Contact*
4. Enter your username and password.
5. Click the *Login* button.
6. Click on *Select* ranch or farm to view Nutbal Pro results to review report.
7. Select the ranch name, for example: *Zander Ranch*
8. Select the profile name, for example: *Mama Cows* for the specific date and sample number that you are trying to solve for the least cost feeding solution.
9. Review the requirements for protein and energy. Note the amount of weight change, and limiting nutrient for the case. This will help you determine whether you need a feed high in energy, protein, or both when selecting feeds for consideration.
10. Click the *Back* button on your browser.
11. Click the *Return to Menu* link to return to the action menu.

## Selecting feeds to consider

1. Click on the *Select* ranch or farm to view sample sheets.
2. Select the ranch name, for example: *Zander Ranch*
3. Select the date on the sample information sheet that corresponds to the sample number you are solving, for example: *01/20/2003*
4. Click the *Edit Pasture and Feed Inputs* button.
5. Scroll down to the feed section of the screen.
6. Select up to 5 feeds to be considered for the case. Load the default feed quality information into the screen by clicking the *Feed # Info* buttons to the left of the feed name.
7. Enter a price for each feed loaded.
8. Leave the amount fed blank to determine a least cost feeding solution.
9. Click the *Update Pasture Level Inputs* button.

## Interpreting the feed report for the selected feeds

1. Click on *Select* ranch or farm to view Nutbal Pro results to review the feed report.
2. Select the ranch name, for example: *Zander Ranch*
3. Select the *Feed Report* link to the right of the profile name for the specific date and sample number that you are working with. If you have mediated the

case multiple time, click the *Refresh* button on your browser to reload the feed report and review the latest solution.

4. Note suggested feed amount and type of feed.
5. Be aware of the grazed forage consumption per day.
6. The report provides the total cost per animal per day and for the entire herd per day.
7. The sensitivity analysis section provides a summary of the market conditions that would have to occur to change the least cost feeding solution for the herd.
8. Click the *Back* button on your browser.
9. Click the *Return to Menu* link to return to the action menu.

#### Hypothetically testing the feeding solution

1. Click on the *Select* ranch or farm to view sample sheets.
2. Select the ranch name, for example: *Zander Ranch*
3. Select the date on the sample information sheet that corresponds to the sample number you are solving, for example: *01/20/2003*
4. Click the *Edit Pasture and Feed Inputs* button.
5. Scroll down to the feed section and enter the suggested amount of the indicated feed in the amount fed column and row for that feed.
6. Click on the *Update Pasture Level Inputs* button.
7. Click on *Select* ranch or farm to view Nutbal Pro results to review report with the feed added to the total diet.
8. Select the ranch name, for example: *Zander Ranch*
9. Select the profile name, for example: *Mama Cows* for the specific date and sample number that you are trying to solve for the least cost feeding solution.
10. Review the requirements for protein and energy. Note the amount of weight change, and limiting nutrient for the case. Consider the potential and actual milk production for cows if a deficiency exists and note that the model can only solve the feeding solution for the actual milk produced.
11. Click the *Back* button on your browser.
12. Click the *Return to Menu* link to return to the action menu.
13. Repeat the steps in this section and increase the feed amount slightly to account for the disparity between the actual and potential milk if one exists. If this is not the case, the report should indicate a gain of close to 0 lbs./day with the feed added into the overall quality of the diet.