

## Feed Strategies for Certain Purchased Feeds and Feed Additives

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Feed additives can raise feed costs by \$.02 to \$.30 per cow per day. Dairy farmers and nutritionists must correctly position feed additives to economically justify their use. Benefit to cost ratios can vary from 10:1 (anionic salts) to 8:1 (ionophores and zinc methionine) to 4:1 (buffers and yeast) to 3:1 (niacin).

The following table outlines strategies when to include certain purchased feeds in dairy rations. Use it as a guide for your feed additive needs. Work with a trained nutritionist to help fine-tune your ration needs.

Strategies with additives and purchased feeds.

Feed Ingredient	Strategy
Undegraded protein	Milk yield > 65 lb
Animal/fish protein blend (by-pass protein)	Milk yield > 90 lb (Corn based diets)
Unprotected fat/oil	Milk yield > 65 lb Thin cows
protected fat	Milk yield > 90 lb Thin cows
Chelated/complex minerals	Close-up dry cows, E.T. donor cows (stress conditions)
Bufferes Early lactation	Wet rations, high corn silage rations
Nacian	Close-up dry cows, early lactation milk yield > 70 lb Ketotic-prone cows
Yeast	Close-up dry cows, fresh cows, cows off-feed
Anionic Salts	Close-up dry cows
Ionophores	All heifers
Porbiotics (Direct Feed Microbials)	Calves on liquid diets, cows off-feed

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