

# Step 1!

## Calculate the pounds of dry matter in each unit of sale.

Feeds can vary in moisture content. Although water is an essential nutrient, purchasing and transporting of water in feed can be costly. To calculate pounds of dry matter, multiply the pounds in each unit of sale (column F) by the percent of dry matter (column B). This calculation (**Table 2**) removes all moisture from the feed and allows you to compare high-moisture products (corn silage, wet distillers grains, etc.) and dry products (hay, dry cereal grains, etc.) appropriately.

**Table 2. Calculations for pounds of dry matter in each unit of sale.**

Feed	(Column F) Pounds in Each Unit of Sale		(Column B) Percent Dry Matter		(Column G) Result, lbs DM**
Prairie hay	2,000	×	90	=	1,800
Corn silage	2,000	×	35	=	700
Barley	48	×	88	=	42.2

\*\* Note: To make the appropriate calculation, use the percentage as a decimal of 100 (for example, 90 % DM = 0.90) or divide the end result by 100.

The difference in pounds of dry matter in each ton of prairie hay and corn silage points out the dramatic impact that dry matter can have on how much your animals are eating. For every ton of prairie hay, dry feed amounts to 1,800 pounds, whereas for every ton of corn silage, dry product only amounts to 700 pounds.

In the case of very wet products, you may be offering large quantities of feed on an as fed-basis, but your animals may not be receiving the nutrients they need. For example, feeding 50 pounds of a 15 percent DM beet pulp would yield only 7.5 pounds of dry feed product.

▼ Use Table 3 to calculate the pounds of dry matter in your feedstuffs.

**Table 3. Calculations for pounds of dry matter in your feeds.**

Feed	(Column F) Pounds in Each Unit of Sale		(Column B) Percent Dry Matter		(Column G) Result, lbs DM**
_____	_____	×	_____	=	_____
_____	_____	×	_____	=	_____
_____	_____	×	_____	=	_____
_____	_____	×	_____	=	_____
_____	_____	×	_____	=	_____

\*\* Note: To make the appropriate calculation, use the percentage as a decimal of 100 (for example, 90 % DM = 0.90) or divide the end result by 100.