

Calculating the Cost of Nutrients in Feedstuffs

Knowing how to determine the cost of individual nutrients can help you make informed decisions about your purchases, especially in cases where you are exploring the purchase of several types of feeds from several sources. To perform the calculations, you need to know the cost of each unit of sale and the pounds of each nutrient in the unit of sale (the calculations we just reviewed).

Performing these calculations will allow for comparisons of all feedstuffs simultaneously.

That is important because the end result for each feed is a cost per pound of each respective nutrient.

Table 8. Calculations for cost per pound of TDN and CP in feedstuffs.

	(Column A)	(Column H)	(Column I)	(Column K)	(Column L)
Calculation				A ÷ H	A ÷ I
Feed	Purchase Price, \$/Unit**	lb TDN/Unit	lb CP/Unit	\$/lb TDN	\$/lb CP
Prairie hay	\$100	828	88.5	\$0.12	\$1.13
Alfalfa hay	\$150	1,026	286.2	\$0.15	\$0.52
Corn silage	\$60	490	56	\$0.12	\$1.07
Distillers grains, mod.	\$100	928	265.2	\$0.11	\$0.38
Barley	\$4	35.5	5.7	\$0.11	\$0.70

** Note: Prices shown are for example purposes only. Be sure to check local prices to make appropriate comparisons.

Based on the prices in **Table 8**, prairie hay offered a cheaper source of TDN, compared with alfalfa hay, but the alfalfa held a distinct advantage, considering the cost of crude protein. Barley and modified distillers grains had a similar value per pound of TDN in each feed, but the modified distillers grains was the cheapest source of protein among all feeds evaluated.

▼ Use **Table 9** to calculate the cost per pound of TDN and CP for your feedstuffs.

Table 9. Calculations for cost per pound of TDN and CP in your feedstuffs.

	(Column A)	(Column H)	(Column I)	(Column K)	(Column L)
Calculation				A ÷ H	A ÷ I
Feed	Purchase Price, \$/Unit**	lb TDN/Unit	lb CP/Unit	\$/lb TDN	\$/lb CP
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

** Using the base asking price for each feedstuff alone can be misleading. Differences in transportation cost, shrink, storage, etc., also should be estimated and included in the per-unit asking price to represent true cost differences among feeds.