



REDUCING FEED WASTAGE

AIM: TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON DIFFERENT STRUCTURES WHICH CAN BE USED TO REDUCE CATTLE WASTING FEED

1. Feed wastage

- ❖ Cattle like to eat food which is fresh and clean.



- ❖ If food (e.g. silage, or hay) is on the floor it can become soiled with urine, faeces or mud which means cattle may not eat it.
- ❖ Food fed from the floor can also become contaminated with parasites (worms) which can affect an animal's health and condition.

2. Reducing feed wastage reduces feed costs

- ❖ Feed is one of the major costs in dairy farming.
- ❖ Feed costs can be reduced by feeding cattle in a trough or rack. This stops feed becoming soiled and helps to reduce feed wastage.



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3. Designing a feed trough / rack



- ❖ You can make a feed trough from items lying around on your farm, such as old barrels, or wheelbarrow bodies.
- ❖ You can attach them to existing structures, such as trees or fences.

- ❖ Feed troughs can be made from locally available materials, e.g. wood, bamboo poles.
- ❖ Feed troughs can be made in many designs.



AND REMEMBER to ensure:

- ✓ There's enough **space** for all your animals to feed.
- ✓ Animals have access to **shade** when eating, such as building your trough in a shelter, or under some trees.
- ✓ Animals always have access to clean, fresh **water**.
- ✓ There are no sharp nails that can injure your cows.

The ZDTP is focused on supporting dairy farmers to improve their productivity, milk quality and linkages to urban markets. The views expressed in this publication are those of the implementers of the programme and do not necessarily reflect those of the New Zealand Government. For further information, please contact ZDTP Country Manager Tania Thomson on tania@primeconsultants.net or +260 96 456 4206