

When considering feed options, think about the following:

- Design a feeding program to fully utilize local feeds,
- Supplement low-quality feeds correctly,
- Analyze forages and feed precisely,
- Substitute 1 pound of grain or other concentrate feed for 2 pounds of alfalfa hay or 3 pounds of grass hay,
- Carefully balance every ration against the animal's requirements,
- Make every effort to reduce feed losses,
- Feed the highest quality feeds to animals that have higher feed requirements (i.e., growing replacement heifers or growing calves),
- Feed the lower quality roughages to cows in the middle-third stage of pregnancy,
- Save the better quality feeds for periods before and after calving, and
- Treat low-quality roughages with various feed additives. Additives can improve palatability and feeding quality.