

## A. BASIC DAIRY FARM INFORMATION

**A.1. Number** of dairy cattle typically on your farm:

**A.1.1.** Number of lactating cows (cows milking):

**A.1.2.** Number of dry cows:

**A.1.3.** Number of replacement heifers (first day of age to day of first calving):

**A.1.4.** Number of bulls for natural service:

**A.2. Milk production** on your farm:

**A.2.1.** What is the rolling herd average (RHA) for your herd? :  lb/cow per year

**A.2.2.** What is the typical daily milk shipped for your herd? :  lb/cow per day

**A.3.** Describe the **primary manager** of the dairy farm:

**A.3.1. Gender:**  Male;  Female

**A.3.2. Age:**  years

**A.3.3. Education:**  high school or less;  graduated with 2-year degree or technical school;  
 graduated from college with BS or higher.

**A.4.** Who performs the role of **nutritionist** for your dairy farm (**check all that apply**):

Yourself or other family members;

Feed company representative;

Private consulting nutritionist;

Veterinarian;  Other:

**A.5.** Do you consider your farm to be managed predominantly as **pasture-based system** during the grazing season?

YES;  NO.

**A.6.** Is your farm **certified organic** (or in the certification process)?

YES;  NO.

**A.7.** Identify your primary **housing facility and groups for lactating cows**:

**A.7.1**  100% of milking cows in tie-stall barn or stanchion barn: **SKIP → to question A.8.;**

**A.7.2**  0% of cows in tie-stall barn or stanchion barn;  Other percentage (%):

**A.7.3 Milking cows housed in groups:**

**A.7.3.1.** Number of groups, pens, or strings:

**A.7.3.2.** Type of group housing facility (**check all that apply**):

Free stall barn;  Shade structure;  Open lot (not pasture);

Pasture during grazing season;  Bedded pack pen under roof;

Compost bedded pen under roof;  None;  Other:

**A.8. Physical Grouping of Lactating Cows.** Indicate your level of agreement with the following statements about your management criteria for grouping lactating cows. In each row, circle one number:

I group lactating cows based on:	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Need to keep pens full of cows	1	2	3	4	5
Need to have a fresh cow group	1	2	3	4	5
Days in milk (stage of lactation)	1	2	3	4	5
Need to have a first lactation heifer group	1	2	3	4	5
Milk production level	1	2	3	4	5
Body condition (body fatness)	1	2	3	4	5
Health (mastitis, SCC, sick, lame, etc.)	1	2	3	4	5
Reproduction (breeding, pregnant, do not breed)	1	2	3	4	5
I do not believe differentiating groups is worth the effort	1	2	3	4	5
Other: <input type="text"/>	1	2	3	4	5

## B. FEEDING & RATIONS FOR LACTATING COWS

**B.1.** Do you **feed different rations** to different groups of lactating (milking) cows?

- YES, there are 2 or more different rations;  YES, there are multiple rations because cows are fed some concentrates on an individual basis;  NO, all cows are fed the same ration: **SKIP → to question B.3.**

**B.2. Feeding Groups of Lactating Cows.** Indicate your level of agreement with the following statements regarding grouping of lactating cows for feeding purposes. In each row, circle one number:

<b>I feed different rations based on:</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Strongly Agree</b>
Fresh vs. all other lactating cows	1	2	3	4	5
Stage of lactation for non-fresh cows	1	2	3	4	5
Parity (lactation number)	1	2	3	4	5
Milk production level	1	2	3	4	5
Body condition (body fatness)	1	2	3	4	5
Health related issues	1	2	3	4	5
Reproductive status (pregnant vs. open)	1	2	3	4	5
I do not believe that more than one ration is needed	1	2	3	4	5
I do not feed different rations due to constraints ( <b>B.4</b> below)	1	2	3	4	5
Other: <input style="width: 300px;" type="text"/>	1	2	3	4	5

**B.3.** Choose system that is closest to your **feeding system for lactating cows (and check all that apply)**:

- One or more **total mixed ration(s)** (TMR; all feeds for a given ration mixed together and fed to cows)
- Partial mixed ration (some forages and concentrates mixed, **but additional feed provided another way**):
- Additional concentrates fed in computer feeder
  - Additional concentrates fed in robotic milking system
  - Additional concentrates fed in milking parlor
  - Additional concentrates top-dressed in tie-stall/stanchion milking barn
  - Additional concentrates top-dressed at group feed bunk on top of partial mixed ration
  - Additional forage fed; describe:
  - Other:
- Forage and concentrate each **delivered separately** (no mixing):
- Concentrates fed in computer feeder;  Concentrates fed in robotic milking system;
  - Concentrates fed in milking parlor;  Concentrates top-dressed at group feed bunk;
  - Concentrates top-dressed in tie-stall/stanchion milking barn;  Other:

**B.4. Constraints to Feeding Groups of Lactating Cows.** Indicate your level of agreement with the following statements regarding constraints to more feeding groups for your lactating cows. In each row, circle one number:

<b>Constraints to more rations to lactating cows:</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Strongly Agree</b>
Current farm facilities do not allow it	1	2	3	4	5
Not enough labor or personnel to handle it	1	2	3	4	5
Desire to keep it simple	1	2	3	4	5
Milk drops when cows are moved to different groups	1	2	3	4	5
Conflicts with grouping for reproductive purposes	1	2	3	4	5
Nutritionist does not want to	1	2	3	4	5
I do not believe more than one feeding group is needed	1	2	3	4	5
Other: <input style="width: 300px;" type="text"/>	1	2	3	4	5

**B.5.** Would you consider being a demonstration farm for implementation of grouping to increase feed efficiency?  YES,  NO

**B.6.** Would you like to provide your (optional)? Name:   
 Phone:  Email: