



**Sutherland's**  
Nutrition Management People

Quality  
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Availability

## Guidelines for Feed Intake of Beef Cattle

**Table 1. Expected Feed Intake of Cattle in Feedlots.\*** Expected dry matter intake of crossbred steers fed during the summer in thermoneutral conditions. The steers are carrying medium flesh, implanted, and fed an ionophore. Based on data from well managed Alberta feedlots.

| Weight of cattle               | Type of ration | Expected dry matter intake, % of body weight |
|--------------------------------|----------------|--|
| 400 lb                         | Grower         | 3.0  |
| 550 lb                         | Grower         | 2.8  |
| 700 lb                         | Grower         | 2.6  |
| 850 lb                         | Finisher       | 2.2  |
| 1000 lb                        | Finisher       | 2.4  |
| 1200 lb, finished for 120 days | Finisher       | 2.0  |
| 1200 lb, finished for 140 days | Finisher       | 1.8  |
| 1200 lb, finished for 160 days | Finisher       | 1.6  |

\* Adapted from "Nutrition and Management: Feed Intake in Feedlot Cattle," by Barry Robinson and Erasmus Okine. Alberta Feedlot Management Guide, Alberta Agriculture 2000.

**Table 2. Estimated Forage Intake of Cows in Different Physiological States and Subjected to Different Supplementation Programs.\***

| Roughage Quality/Conditions   | Forage Dry Matter Intake, % of Body Weight |           |
|-------------------------------|--|-----------|
|                               | Dry, Gestating                             | Lactating |
| Low /Unsupplemented           | 1.5  | 2.0       |
| Low /Protein Supplemented     | 1.8  | 2.2       |
| Low /Energy Supplemented      | 1.5  | 2.0       |
| Average /Unsupplemented       | 2.0  | 2.3       |
| Average /Protein Supplemented | 2.2  | 2.5       |
| Average /Energy Supplemented  | 2.0  | 2.3       |
| High /Unsupplemented          | 2.5  | 2.7       |
| High /Protein Supplemented    | 2.5  | 2.7       |
| High /Energy Supplemented     | 2.5  | 2.7       |

\* Adapted from "Feeding the Beef Cowherd for Maximum Profit." 2009. By Danny D Simms, page 47. SMS Publishing, Amarillo, TX.