

# Diet Check

Version 6.2

## In this issue of DietCheck News

On page 2, we review your feedback on some of the features you have told us you find particularly useful.

A flavour of things to come - page 1 details some of the planned enhancements for the Autumn 2011 release.

### New features in the pipeline.

As part of DietCheck's continuing development we take great care listening to comments and ideas from customers. As a result of your feedback we plan some great enhancements for the next version update in the Autumn.

#### **Web Licencing System**

A new licensing system taking advantage of the web will enable all new users and customers who wish to upgrade their versions the ability to automatically licence their copy of DietCheck without the need to contact us. This will also allow users to move their licence between PCs. For example, you will be able to run your copy of DietCheck on your laptop, and on your home or office PC by quickly and easily moving the licence. Clients and ration details are simply transferred by using the backup and restore facility.

#### **Automatic Version Updates**

For those customers subscribing to "Maintenance and Support", after the next release, DietCheck programme updates will be sent automatically over the web, much the same as windows updates work. This will ensure you have the latest version at all times.

*This Worldwide issue of DietCheck News reviews some of the recent updated features, and outlines some of the planned improvements for the next release of DietCheck that will keep it at the cutting edge of both scientific and practical nutrition.*

*Remember, if you are a member of the DietCheck annual Maintenance & Support scheme, all these enhancements are supplied free of charge.*

#### **Automatic Backup**

We all know we should backup our data regularly, but our support desk gets many calls from users who have had hardware problems with their PC and have no recent backup.

Automatic Backup will allow you to select the file name (using standard Windows convention), the storage location and frequency of backups. Once set, the backup will be created automatically ensuring your data is safe and secure.

In addition, manual backups will allow the individual naming of the backup file (rather than a fixed name as at present) allowing multiple backups to be stored in the same location. This will be particularly useful for archiving old data and for storing backups in a central location for businesses with more than one user.

#### **"What If" feature**

This very well received feature will be enhanced further to allow more flexibility in handling what are effectively 2 rations within the same diet. In future you will be able to scroll back and forward to review the "What If" changes for that session. In addition rather than "What-If" diet automatically becoming the 'live' diet, you will be given the choice of which version to save.

Used along with the "Save as" function you will now have the ability to revert back to the original ration discarding any changes, preserve the original ration and create a new one from the "What-If" or overwrite the original with the modified version.

#### **Feed Library**

There will be a new category in the DietCheck feed library with commercial branded products and their declared analysis. This will enable users to access a wider range of commercially available feed ingredients in the marketplace. This will save time and effort finding the product data, enter the nutrient values and save them in the user feeds section of the library.

**DietCheck on the Web**

Keep checking [www.dietcheck.co.uk](http://www.dietcheck.co.uk) for programme updates and technical articles.

# Customer Feedback

## What-If?

Of all the recent enhancements to DietCheck, this has proven to be the most popular. Having the ability to compare side by side with the original, a new modified version, watching how each change compares as you make it, has made a huge difference to the functionality of the programme.

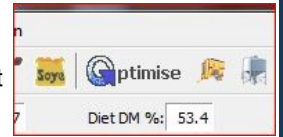
	Original		What-If		Nutrient name	Original			What-If			
	Amount fed (kg/d)	Cost (£)	Amount fed (kg/d)	Cost (£)		Daily intake	% DM	Requirement	Shortfall	Daily intake	% DM	Requirement
Feeds					DM (kg)	22.7	22.0	0.7	23.5	22.2		
Grass Silage average	25.289	25.289			DM T&H effect (kg)	0.0			0.0			
Maize Silage -30% Starch	21.714	23.000			DM DietCheck (kg)	22.7	22.4	0.3	23.5	22.4		
Straw -wheat	0.000	0.000			DM T&H effect DC (kg)	0.0			0.0			
S.B.F. -molassed	0.426	0.500			Forage DM (kg)	13.0			13.4			
Wheat	4.500	4.500			Forage as fed (kg)	47.0			48.3			
Maize Gluten Feed	3.000	3.200			ME (MJ)	268.1	11.79	264.7	3.4	277.2	11.80	264.7
Rapeseed -extracted	2.000	2.000			ME (%req)	101.3			104.7			
Soya 48	1.000	1.100			Milk from ME (kg)	40.6			42.2			
Dairy mineral	0.128	0.128			Protein (%DM)	16.9			16.9			
Limestone	0.016	0.019			Protein (g)	3832.7	16.86		3968.7	16.90		

This is a great way to involve your clients in the decision making process while reviewing the potential outcomes shown by the DSS screen shown below.

<b>Rumen pH DSS</b>	Rumen pH no problem	<b>Milk quality DSS</b>	Percentage (%)	Output per day (kg)
<b>Amino acid DSS</b>		Milk fat	no change	moderate increase
Lysine	borderline lysine supply	Milk protein	small increase	moderate increase
Methionine	marginally adequate methionine supply	Milk yield change (current - previous) (kg/d)	1.63	
		Previous	What-If	

## Optimisation

A very powerful tool if you have the Consultant or Nutritionist versions.



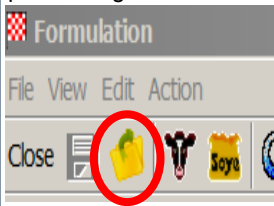
This will, within the nutritional parameters that you set, arrive at a "least cost" solution in either the Compound editor or the On Farm editor. Remember all Optimise will do is fulfil the specification you set within the minimum and maximum tolerances you have determined, at the best possible cost.

It is always prudent to take care when setting the ration parameters. This is where your knowledge and experience comes into its own. Set up constraints that you are happy with and are practical, as giving Optimise free choice may result in a cheap diet that make little sense.

With the compound optimisation remember you have a tool as powerful as many feed mill formulation systems.

## Save as

It doesn't sound like much in itself, but the Save as function has saved many of you much time and effort. Before, if you opened a diet to modify it, unless you had remembered to make a copy before hand, at the end of the modifications you had the stark choice of losing your changes, or the original diet. This meant starting the whole process again!



Now, with the "Save as" feature you can preserve both with a single click of the mouse. A small feature perhaps, but be honest, how many times have you been faced with the above scenario and had to start all over?

## Training

We have has several requests for a DietCheck "Master Class" both at advanced and intermediate levels. We hope to run such an event later this summer. While this is not quite as effective as bespoke training sessions, it is a more cost effective way of keeping everyone up to speed with DietCheck.

The training would cover the operational tips, the important nutritional parameters and how to best use DietCheck in the field. If you are interested in attending please drop us an email to [office@dietcheck.co.uk](mailto:office@dietcheck.co.uk)

## New Protein Terminology

Judging by the feedback, this was probably the most difficult to get your head round. Although the FiM equations haven't changed since FiM was introduced, the way we have displayed the information was new to most of you. But, once understood, these nutrient values enable us to balance rumen energy and rumen protein much more effectively.

Protein (%DM)	16.9
Protein (g)	3832.7
MP -N (g)	2648.0
MP -E (g)	2421.5
MP -E (%req)	103.2
MicrobialCP (ERDP)-N (g)	2516.2
MicrobialCP (ERDP)-E (g)	2160.9
Microbial CP (% N/E)	116.4

This generally results in a healthier, better functioning rumen and more cost effective diets. It has enabled users to improve performance at lower crude protein levels in the total diet. Better for the cow's production, health and for the environment.

Remember, a tolerance of between 5—20% of (ERDP) N over (ERDP) E is recommended. This means the N\E figure would read 105 – 120%. In many cases this can be achieved with a Crude Protein level in the total diet as low as 16%.

The contextual help system within DietCheck gives a far more detailed explanation of these terms. Again many people forget to use this invaluable tool when trying to understand the terminology.

## Farm Feeds

Having the ability to store feeds in the "farm feeds" section for each client has been well received. This has several benefits to the user. Firstly if you are part of a larger company where your technical department issues you with regular feed library updates, you can store any customised feeds you have created in this section for each client.

Silages	Farm feeds	Wet forage	Dry forage
ARN Grass Silage	Home Farm 1st Cut 11	Cabbage	Grass
ARN Maize Silage	Home Farm Blend 1	Carrot Peel	Grass
ARN Wheat Alkalage	Home Farm Maize 10	Carrots	Hay
ARN Whole Crop Beans	Home Farm ParLOUR Nut	Citrus Pulp -pressed	Hay
ARN Whole Crop Wheat	Home Farm WCW 10	Grass - Grazed	Hay
Grass Silage average		Grazing -early spring	Hay
Grass Silage -big bale		Grazing -Cocksfoot	Lucern
Grass Silage -good high		Grazing -Ryegrass	Lucern

This enables you to keep your feed library tidy, cutting out any duplication of feeds by using the "Replace after deleting existing" option rather than the "Add new feeds and update existing" option. We have seen many libraries cluttered with multiple entries such as "Sugar Beet Pulp - SBP – S.B.P. – Sugar Beet Nuts – Mol SBP) etc etc. Some companies update the central feed library regularly with the analysis edited to reflect current QC results and seasonal pricing. Secondly, you only need to enter your forage analysis once for each client instead of once for each diet.

## DietCheck on the Web

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