

Dry Matter Intake of Dry Cows

Between dry-off and 3 weeks before calving, *ad libitum* (to fill) dry matter intake (DMI) can be expected to be 1.8-2.0% of body weight (BW). DMI in the close-up period (last 3 weeks) is likely to decline, as follows:

- 1.7-1.9% of BW during the third week prepartum;
- 1.6-1.8% of BW during the second week prepartum;
- 1.25-1.4% of BW during the final week prepartum.

Since nutrient requirements for the growing fetus increase rapidly in the close-up period, ration nutrient density must be increased to compensate for reduced intake. Otherwise, negative energy balance may lead to [fatty liver syndrome](#), predisposing cows to other post-partum metabolic disorders.

for more information:

[Fresh Cow Problems: How to control them](#), *Hoard's Dairyman Books*
[Close-Up Dry Period: Feeding Management for a Smooth Transition](#),
Advances in Dairy Technology