

# Protein Requirements - Lactation

Lactating cows require protein to support maintenance, milk production, gestation and weight gain. The table below provides benchmark total requirements for example cows:

COW WEIGHT kg	MILK FAT %	WEIGHT GAIN kg/day	MILK YIELD kg/day				
			7	13	20	26	33
400	5.0	0.220	7	13	20	26	33
500	4.5	0.275	8	17	25	33	41
600	4.0	0.330	10	20	30	40	50
700	3.5	0.385	12	24	36	48	60
800	3.5	0.440	13	27	40	53	67
PROTEIN REQUIREMENTS			----- % of dietary dry matter -----				
Crude Protein			12	15	16	17	18
Undegradable Intake Protein			4.4	5.2	5.7	5.9	6.2
Degradable Intake Protein			7.8	8.7	9.6	10.3	10.4

for more information:

[Energy and Protein Status Affect Fertility](#), *University of Alberta Dairy Research Highlights*

[Bypass Protein 1. Background](#), *University of Alberta Dairy Research Highlights*

[Bypass Protein 2. Production responses in early and late lactation](#), *University of Alberta Dairy Research Highlights*

[Alfalfa Protein](#), *Alberta Dairy Management*

[What Manure Can \(and can't\) Tell You](#), *Alberta Dairy Management*

[Rumen-Protected Amino Acids 1. Background](#), *Dairy Research Results from the Lethbridge Research Centre*

Nutrient Requirements of Dairy Cattle, NRC 1989