

September 17, 2007



Mr. Gary Foster
Central Valley Nutritional Associates

Dear Mr. Foster,

I want to thank you for donating the use of Formulate2 for our dairy nutrition courses here at Kansas State University. Through the use of Formulate2, my students have developed a much more in-depth understanding of the factors that influence diet formulation for dairy cattle.

I chose to use Formulate2 for my course primarily because it offers the ability to automatically formulate least-cost rations within constraints set by the students. In addition, I liked the fact that Formulate2 accomplishes this using 2001 NRC model; I referred to this publication heavily in lectures, and it was important to me that our ration formulation problems were consistent with what we discussed in lecture. These attributes allowed me to present students with formulation problems that nicely demonstrated the potential effects of formulating for metabolizable protein vs. crude protein, high production vs. low production, or balancing carbohydrate fractions in high byproduct rations. It also provided valuable insight into the shortcomings of our current models, driving home the point that human evaluation of rations is still required. I hope this encouraged the students to work hard in the class!

In general, I found Formulate2 to be an extremely powerful, adaptable, and well-designed tool for formulating dairy rations of all types. With a short introduction to the program, students were able to navigate effectively and focus on the nutrition concepts rather than the program. Just as importantly, whenever I ran into any difficulties, I was able to get support and trouble-shooting advice very quickly. In combination with the 2001 NRC and the help menu included with the program, this may be the best-supported program available to dairy nutritionists. It is exceedingly rare to be able to find a single individual capable of trouble-shooting both technical problems and ration formulation issues!

I highly recommend Formulate2 for use in the classroom, and with the tools included for managing multiple herds, I suspect that it would be even more valuable for consultants in the field. Again, thank you for your donation and for your continued support.

Sincerely,
Barry Bradford, PhD
Assistant Professor of Dairy Cattle Nutrition
Kansas State University