

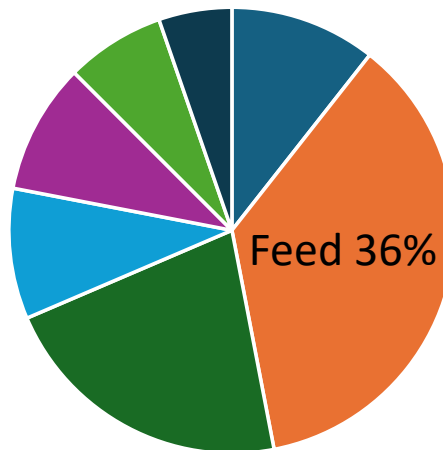
Rumen8 – Taking the gue\$\$ work out of supplementation

Dr. Martin Staines

Rumen8 Nutrition Pty Ltd

Feed is a major cost on beef farms

- Feed was the single largest variable costs (36%)
 - For 'Cow-Calf Farms'
 - Eastern States data (none for WA)



- | | |
|---|--|
| ■ Animal purchases | ■ Feed (purchased feed, fert, seed, pesticide) |
| ■ Machinery (maint, deprec, contractor) | ■ Fuel, energy, lubricants, water |
| ■ Buildings (maint, deprec) | ■ Vet & medicine |
| ■ Insurance, taxes | |

Supplements are expensive

Feed type	\$/t DM	relative cost
Grazed pasture	\$135	
Hay *	\$185	+40%
Silage (baled) *	\$275	+100%
* incl 15% wastage at feedout		



Informed & timely decisions around feeding

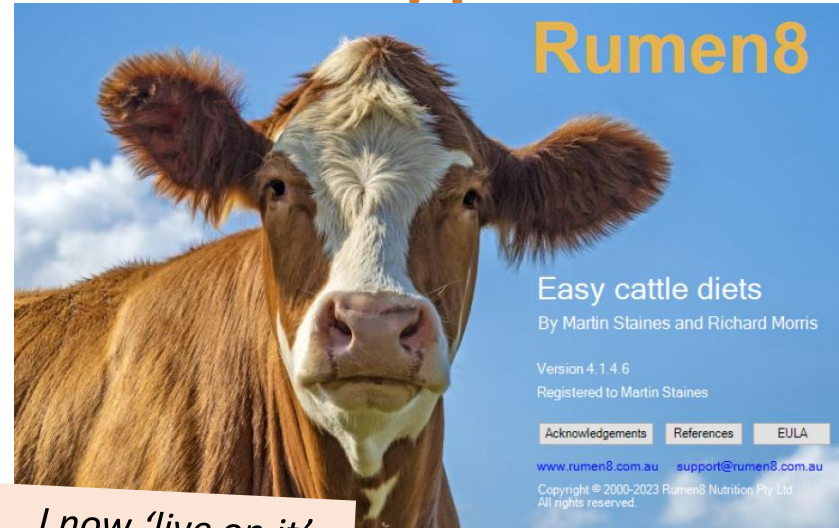
- Better animal production
- Improved animal welfare
- Increased farm profit

**Tool available to
help make this
easier in practice**



Rumen8 - Taking guesswork out of supplementation

- Better animal production
- Improved animal welfare
- Increased farm profit
- Ps: Methane



"One of my biggest gains has been with Rumen8... I now 'live on it' using it twice a week. I have several different types of feed I can use: dry feed, kikuyu in summer, hay, silage, pellets, all with different feed quality... so I use Rumen8 to balance what I am feeding to each class of stock so they get enough nutrition without wasting feed." (Mark Thomas)



Why choose Rumen8 ?

- Independent and free - more than 20 years
 - Small WA company. Free of charge, free of advertising
 - Not aligned with products, breeds, farm systems, companies
 - Funded by Australian and international public good agencies
- Based on published 'feed standards' (Oz, UK, US)
- Constantly being improved and updated
- Strong educational elements ('tooltips') to increase skills & understanding of Rumen8 users
- Many thousands of users in 114 countries
- Rumen8 Beef since 2021



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ALSO: we are **NOT** Rumin8!! (no relationship whatsoever)

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Let's look at Rumen8

- Describe your diet
- Default Library 275 'temperate' feeds
- Optional library 350 tropical feeds
- Can create your own feeds & mixes



File Edit Animal View Help

		DM	As-fed
1.	Ryegrass hay 8 MJ ADDED	0.00	0.00
2.	Ryegrass hay 9 MJ ADDED	0.00	0.00
3.	Ryegrass silage 10 MJ ADDED	0.00	0.00
4.		0.00	0.00
5.		0.00	0.00
6.		0.00	0.00
7.		0.00	0.00
8.		0.00	0.00
9.		0.00	0.00
10.		0.00	0.00
11.		0.00	0.00
12.		0.00	0.00
13.		0.00	0.00
14.		0.00	0.00
15.		0.00	0.00
Totals		0.0 %	0.0 kg

Feed costs
\$/t DM
\$/MJ ME
\$/kg CP
\$/head/d

Beef Diet Diet detail Price Feed cost Compare Notes Optimise

Cow

Breed

Live weight (kg) 600

Live weight change (kg/d) -0.20

Days since calving 30

Days in calf 0

Number of animals in herd 100

Age (years) 4.0

Carcase dressing (%) 55

Live weight at sale (kg) 600

Penned

Hormone growth promotant

DMI estimation method

Farm terrain

Distance walked (km/d) 2.0

Milk
☒ Automatic
☐ Entered
☐ None

Yield(l/d) Fat(%m/v) True protein(%m/v)

☐ Young stock
☐ Feedlot
☐ General AFRC

☐ General NRC
☒ Cow
☐ NDF intake

Feed efficiency
FCR feed/lw gain (kg)
Gain:Feed (kg/kg DM)
Feed % income
\$ Feed/\$ Gain

Margin
\$/head/d
\$/herd/d
Income (\$/d)
Live weight change (kg/d)

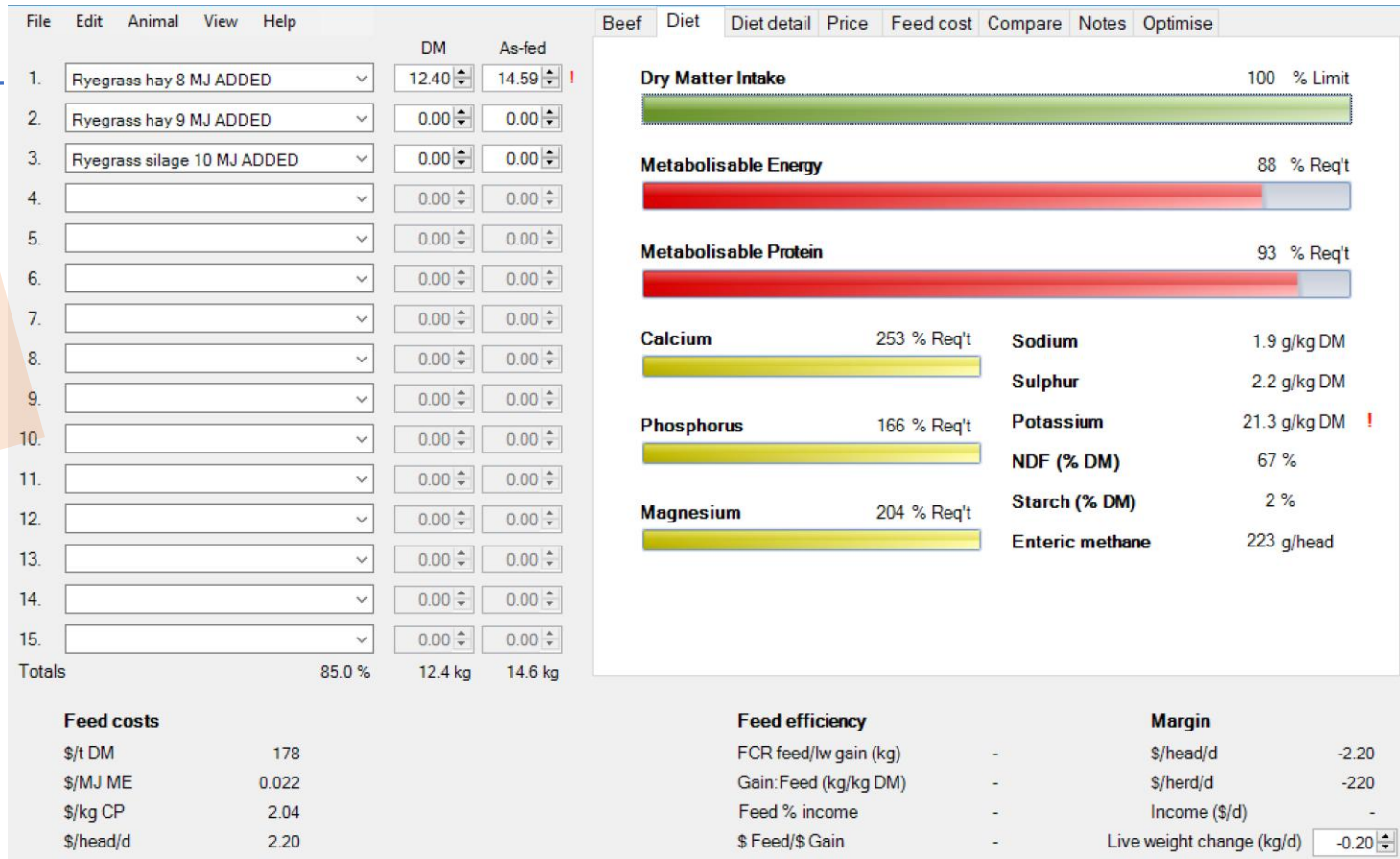
Designed for Windows PCs
(can work on Mac)

Enter feed costs & value of animal product

Describe your animal

Let's look at a Rumen8 diet

- Feed intake maxed out at 12.4 kg DM
- Not enough energy & protein
- Cows will lose more weight and/or produce less milk



meatup
FORUM

Rumen8 workshops for beef farmers

- Organised by Western Beef (Jeisane Accioly)
Funded by Future Drought Fund
- Full-day farmer workshops
 - Nine in past year (Dongara to Albany). 93 people
 - 4 more planned next month (Albany, Esperance)
 - Two-day Train the Trainer workshop. 10 people
 - Farmer course content:
 - Intro to cattle nutrition. Example of using Rumen8. How to use to Rumen8. Create your own feeds. Work on Rumen8 scenario for own farm. Report back to group + discussion
- What about feedback/evaluation?



Feedback from participants

8. On a scale of 1 to 10, after attending today's workshop how likely you are to recommend a fellow farmer of service provider to attend a Rumen8 Beef workshop?
- 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Not likely Very likely

9. Do you have any observations/suggestions to improve the Rumen8-Beef Producer workshop (for Hay and Silage allocation)?

Workshop was fantastic and vital to get most out of the software. I will be recommending to other producers. Venue was great and not too far travel.

Thanks so much to all presenters!!

8. On a scale of 1 to 10, after attending today's workshop how likely you are to recommend a fellow farmer of service provider to attend a Rumen8 Beef workshop?
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Not likely Very likely
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Promote the hell out of it.

Mean score 9.2 (out of 10)

8. On a scale of 1 to 10, after attending today's workshop how likely you are to recommend a fellow farmer of service provider to attend a Rumen8 Beef workshop?
- 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Not likely Very likely
9. Do you have any observations/suggestions to improve the Rumen8-Beef Producer workshop (for Hay and Silage allocation)?

This has been a fabulous workshop. I have felt 100% engaged the whole time. Thank you for creating such a powerful decision making tool.

already recommended to fellow farmers!!

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Not likely Very likely
9. Do you have any observations/suggestions to improve the Rumen8-Beef Producer workshop (for Hay and Silage allocation)?

Great workshop - very useful tool.

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Not likely Very likely
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EXCELLENT

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Not likely Very likely
9. Do you have any observations/suggestions to improve the Rumen8-Beef Producer workshop (for Hay and Silage allocation)?

Extremely impressive presentation & content.

Can we have Rumen8 Sheep?

- Frequent requests for Rumen8 Sheep
 - Rumen8 Goats, Camels, Buffaloes, Alpacas ;-)
- All possible but subject to funding
 - No success so far



Take home messages

- Rumen8 can help to make informed & timely nutrition decisions for better animal production, welfare & profit
- Rumen8 workshops for beef farmers have been rated very highly
- More Rumen8 workshops will depend on funding
- Development of Rumen8 Sheep depends on funding



Tools and resources

- Download the free Rumen8 software from www.rumen8.com.au
- For more information on Rumen8 courses, contact:
 - Executive Officer Western Beef, Jeisane Aciolly (jeisane.alis@gmail.com)
 - Martin Staines (martin@rumen8.com.au)

