CamDairy 2002

CamDairy 2002 is a computer model designed to help farm advisers, farmers, students and research scientists who are interested in the nutrition of dairy cows. It can be used to predict milk production from information describing the physiological status of cows and the feeds offered to them. This is a valuable way of identifying constraints to production. In addition, the program can be used to devise rations that maximise profit, taking into account information provided about the cows, the feeds available, feed costs and milk returns. This is a valuable means of testing the possibility of improving current feeding practices.

CamDairy 2002 uses the ration formulation engine of its DOS predecessor CamDairy 4.0, developed by CAM software. The Windows interface has been designed to make the evaluation and formulation of dairy cow rations easy and straightforward. The steps involved in evaluating and formulating a ration for dairy cows requires information to be provided under the following headings:

- Describe the animals to be fed;
- Define the nutrient needs for these animals;
- Specify the feeds available; and
- Specify the constraints on the feeds that are available.

A tree-style structure (similar to that used in the Windows Explorer) has been used to emphasise this ‘structured approach’ - Figure 1.

![Figure 1. The describe animals data entry form in CamDairy 2002.](image-url)
With animal and feed details entered, CamDairy 2002 provides three categories of reports:

**Predict Performance.** The user specifies the amount of each feed offered and CamDairy 2002 predicts the milk yield response to these inputs (“This is the ration I’m offering to the cows - what milk yield can I expect?”);

**Formulate a Maximum Profit Ration.** Using the feeds available CamDairy 2002 provides the mix of feeds that maximises profit given animal potential, milk price and feed price (“I've entered details about animal status, the feeds available and feed constraints ... can the program devise a ration that will make the most profit?”); and

**Formulate a Least Cost Ration.** Using the feeds available CamDairy 2002 provides the mix of feeds that minimises cost of the ration while meeting nutritional and feed constraints (“I'm not interested in milk production - just devise the cheapest ration that meets the nutrient and feed constraints that I specify”).

Typical output from a Predict Performance report is shown in Figure 2.

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**What's new in CamDairy 2002?**

Compared with its DOS predecessor, the following features are new in CamDairy 2002:

- New interface - easier to use!
- The ration formulation engine has been re-written and upgraded.
- Dietary cation-anion difference concentrations are quoted for each feed in the feed library and provided in the Minor Nutrient Analysis reports.

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Figure 2. The Predict Performance – Performance Summary Report in CamDairy 2002.
• The feed library contains the facility to record notes about feedstuffs including: feed constraints, usage, and cautionary notes.

• Users have the option of entering body condition score values into the program on a 1 - 8 scale, or a 1 - 5 scale, depending on their preference.

• Price paid for milk may be entered into the program on the combination of c/kg fat, c/kg protein, and c/L basis in addition to the single c/L basis, previously available.

• Updated help system. More explanations - more detail.

How to order

Cost of the program is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Program cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New user:</td>
<td>$650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>User with current service contract:</td>
<td>$250 + $85 for 12-month service contract</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lapsed service contract:</td>
<td>$550 + $85 for 12-month service contract OR $250 + $85 times the number of years since service contract expiry (whichever is less)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All prices quoted in Australian dollars. Substantial discounts are provided for bulk purchases. The program may be used in demonstration mode for 60 days after the date of installation. Contact your appropriate agent for further details.

Contact

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