



# Exploring Vermont Dairy

## Health and Nutrition on Vermont Dairy Farms

### Lesson 2 Post- Assignment

#### Instructions:

We have discussed in the presentation that many Vermont dairy cows are fed a TMR. (Total mixed ration). The TMR recipe may be formulated by the dairy farmer or by a dairy nutritionist who works with the farmer. Many factors are considered when formulating a ration. List 5 things that are considered when formulating a ration: (You may refer back to the presentation):

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

In what circumstances might a shake similar to a TMR be fed to a person?  
What might some of the ingredients be?

Think about what you have eaten in the last 24 hours. If you combined all of the items into a blender what might it look like? What texture might it be?  
How do you think it would smell? How do you think it might taste?

#### What is **palatability**?

What is added to human food to increase palatability?

What might be added to a dairy ration to increase palatability?

Vermont dairy farmers want to keep their animals healthy so they can be productive for a number of years. Happy, healthy cows are productive and mean less expenditures for veterinary care, medicines, and lower rates of cows leaving the herd, in other words healthy cows increase profits for the farmer.