



Scales



Drive-over truck scales are essential to monitor inventory in a feeding operation. Here are a few points to consider when implementing a drive-over scale.

Location: Truck scales should be located in a convenient spot to allow for easy crossing when delivering both forages and feed deliveries throughout the year. Thus, consider placement of the scale on the main drive into the feed center. The scale needs to be located on a flat location with enough space before and after for trucks to maneuver. It should be placed where water will drain away and snow and ice can be easily removed. Consider the traffic flow entering and exiting the truck scale, ensuring enough room for the truck driver to maneuver on and off the scale. Make sure there is plenty of room for regular maintenance and inspections and leave plenty of space for queue lines and parking. Consider your future throughput and capacity needs as you determine the best location.

Scale House: The addition of a scale house can be very convenient, however, the location of this will need to be relatively close to the truck scale and any peripheral equipment, such as traffic lights and kiosks. The scale house should have the functionality to monitor forage dry matter content during harvest and house any electrical and conduit needs.

Weight Tracking System/Feeding Software: When implementing a scale, it is best to implement a scale system to help track weights especially during busy harvest seasons. Several systems are on the market. These systems utilize different functions to track the different trucks and their weights throughout the harvest. Exploring systems that can input weights directly into inventory in feeding software should be considered. Without an autonomous system, an alternative system should be in place to promptly enter inventory into the feeding software to help monitor shrink and assist in ordering deliveries.

Some different systems include the following:

- EZ Weights: <https://www.amelicor.com/commodity-tracking>
- Truck Supervisor: <https://www.supervisorsystems.com/truck-supervisor/>
- One Scale by Milc group: <https://www.milcgroup.com/>
- Inbound Tracker by TopCon: https://topconagstore.com/store/details/156/Inbound_Tracker

Scale companies:

- Unifide Scales: <https://www.unifidecst.com>
- Rice Lake Scales: <https://www.ricelake.com/industries/agriculture/>
- AxleWeigh: <https://axleweighr.com/>

Feed Center Design

Scales



Left photo: Scale and scale house.



Right photo: Scale equipment

Photosbelow: Axle weigh system (<https://axleweighr.com/>). This system works best with plenty of space for the trucks to drive up on prior to the weigh system. The farm below has 165' (50.3 m) long pad of concrete for the scale area. This is a simple and effective way to weigh forages coming in from the field, but accuracy is not as good as a certified platform scale system.



Feed Center Design

Scales



More examples of truck scales, scale equipment and signage:



The data contained in this report is for informational purposes only. All images are pulled from Google and/or used with the farm's consent. The information contained in this report is for the use of GPS Dairy Consulting, LLC employees, GPS Dairy Consulting, LLC clients and chosen third parties only and cannot be shared.