

Holiday Schedule

Prairie Ag Supply will be closed on the following days.

- > Christmas Eve—Friday
December 24th
- > New Years Eve—Friday
December 31st

Sorry for any inconvenience .

Prairie News

Fermentrics—A new tool for ration troubleshooting

Fermentrics is the newest tool available for analyzing the digestion rates of TMR's and feed ingredients. Created by RFS Technologies, this analysis uses the gas production of a feed sample to calculate the rate of digestion for various carbohydrates. So why should you care?

The rate of digestion of carbohydrates like sugar, starch, and soluble fiber plays a huge role in how much cows eat, how much milk they produce, and ultimately how efficient your ration is. Until now, nutritionists have used specific time points for fiber digestibility (mainly NDFD 30 and 48 hour) and estimated starch digestion rates based on particle size, moisture content, and time

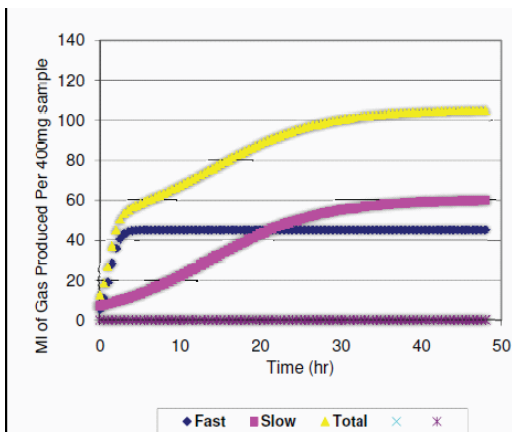
in storage. Now Fermentrics, allows us to look at continuous digestion rates from 0-50 hours and gives us a much clearer picture of what is happening inside the rumen. In particular, it shows how our carbohydrate sources are working together to feed the rumen microbes.

The chart below is an example of a ration where Fermentrics helps explain a case of milk fat depression. The blue lines show that the fast pool of carbohydrates (very high moisture corn) reached its maximum rate in only 1.5 hours; while the pink line shows that the slow pool (mainly NDF) didn't reach its maximum until 14 hours. The spread in these maximum rates means

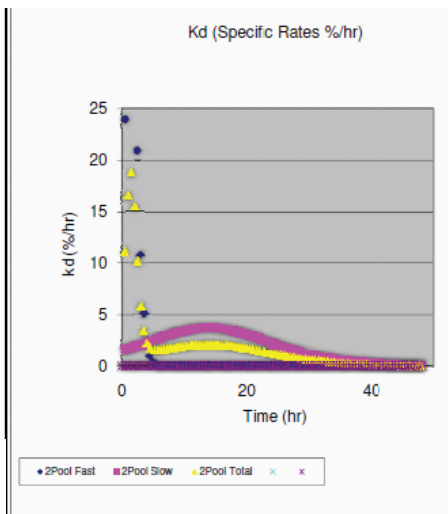
that rumen microbes experience large peaks and valleys in the amount of carbohydrates available to them. By reducing the amount of high moisture corn and adding more highly digestible fiber this dairy was able to increase its milk fat levels from 3.2-3.7%.

If you would like more information on how Fermentrics could be used on your dairy contact your Prairie Ag Consultant.

Kyle Taysom
Nutrition Consultant



Starch	C:B1 Kd=	42.00
	C:B1 ID+	90.00
Fast Pool	C:B2 Kd=	41.29
	C:B2 ID-	90.00
Slow Pool	C:B3 Kd=	3.68



	Max Kd %/hr	Time of Max (hr)
Fast Pool Kd=	41.29	1.5
Slow Pool Kd=	3.68	14

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Establishing accurate inventories helps create a more consistent ration throughout the year.

Inventory Calculator

The harvesting season is over, silos and silage piles have settled, and field work is still months away. Now is a great time to get an accurate estimate of silage inventories.

Establishing an accurate inventory now, and projecting forage needs into the next year is an important step in managing dairy rations. By planning ahead we can establish a more consistent forage base in the diet and eliminate the stress caused by major diet changes.

Accurate inventories also add flexibility in the planning for commodity needs like beet pulp, cottonseed, or protein supplements. By knowing exactly what your needs are you can take advantage of profitable buying opportunities as they arise.

One tool that can aid in the calculation of forage inventories is the Akey DM Inventory Calculator. This Excel spreadsheet allows the user to easily calculate the capacities of bunkers, upright silos, and bags. It will also

calculate your forage needs for up to 13 rations.

With adjustments for dry matter density, shrink, and projected refill dates this tool can be very accurate in assessing your forage needs for the coming year.

To obtain a copy of this spreadsheet, or for more help in establishing accurate inventories, contact your Prairie Ag Consultant or call us at 1-800-535-4485.



Aaron "Big Shooter" Wolf has lived up to his nickname this year by harvesting bucks during both the bow and gun seasons.

Employee Profile—Aaron Wolf

Aaron Wolf has covered many miles during his nearly 10 years at Prairie Ag Supply. He has been driving one of the feed delivery trucks since June of 2001 and knows nearly all of our customers by name, or at least by their feed bins. Among the things he enjoys most about his job are visiting with farmers, seeing the countryside, and scouting for wildlife throughout the year.

Like many truck drivers, his most vivid memories about work revolve around the inevitable breakdowns that happen while on the road or at the farm. He is also very fond of the day when his truck was converted to a round box, which eliminated the need to shovel a few tons of feed at the end of every load.

When he's not delivering feed, Aaron pitches in around the mill. His humor helps to keep morale high, especially on days when the mill foreman proclaims, "We ain't ever gonna get done."

Outside of his work at Prairie Ag, Aaron is also a talented taxidermist. He operates Wolf's Eye Taxidermy from his home near Colfax, WI. He spends countless hours working on deer, fish, waterfowl, and small animal mounts and the pride that he takes in his work clearly shows through.

With the little free time he has left, Aaron has become an accomplished outdoorsman. Throughout the year he spends time hunting, fishing, and cutting wood. After years of whining

about how he never sees the big bucks, Aaron has been silenced by his recent hot streak of three mature bucks in the past three hunting seasons (2 gun and 1 bow.)

In spite, or perhaps because of, his commitment to being an outdoorsman, taxidermist, and truck driver, Aaron has managed to find two loyal companions in life, his dog Vinnie and his wife Andrea. While you are more likely to see Vinnie in Aaron's passenger seat, mentioning Andrea is the most sure fire way to bring a smile to his face.

Together Aaron, Andrea, and Vinnie are a part of the family and unique culture here at Prairie Ag Supply.

Parasite Problems

When was the last time you checked your cattle to see if your parasite protection program is working effectively?? Chances are it has not been at the top of your To-Do List lately, but it may be something very worthwhile in pursuing in the future.

Parasites (worms, grubs, lice, mites, flies, etc.) are in the environment naturally, and cattle can survive with them unless they are overwhelmed by them, or become stressed by something else so that the parasites can flourish. When that happens, nutrients that the animal is taking in through the diet are consumed by the parasites instead of the host animal, reducing performance or causing illness.

Stressors can be any negative pressure that compromises the health of the animal such as heat, calving, pen changes, disease, and molds to name a few. Interestingly, dewormers are actually more effective when the

animal is somewhat stressed, as this causes the parasites to come out of "hibernation" and be out in the open for exposure to the treatment, thus the recommendation to worm cows at freshening. Another benefit of doing it then is it allows the cow to utilize all of the nutrients they consume, increasing peak production potential.

How do you test for parasites?? The use of a Fecal Egg Count Reduction Test (FECRT) is viewed as the most viable test available to monitor parasite infection levels. It is done usually by sending in a blended, fresh fecal sample from at least 20 animals. It is sent in to a commercial lab that counts the number of eggs present. After treatment, it is recommended to re-test 14 days later to confirm that the treatment worked, or if a different treatment is necessary.

There are currently several products and type of products available to treat worms. The

most common types are pour-on, paste, injectable, and feed-based products. There are advantages for each type as far as ease of application, but also in the parasites that they control. Pour-on products will help control and treat gastrointestinal roundworms, lungworms, cattle grubs, lice, mange mites and horn flies. Feed-based products offer the advantage of controlling lungworms, and intestinal worms (specifically hookworms), as well as stomach worms, and cover different several species of each.

If you have animals that are rough-looking, or struggling with production despite good appetite and environment, parasites may be the problem. Contact your Prairie Ag Supply consultant for more information, or to see if your parasite control program is working effectively.

Chad McEathron

Nutrition Consultant

Individual Cow Program

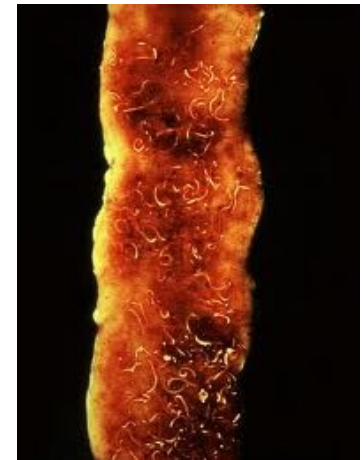
Contamination Level	Dry Period	Freshening	42 DIM
High	Wait	Deworm	Deworm
Moderate	Wait	Deworm	Deworm
Low	Wait	Deworm	Wait
Extremely Low	Monitor Annually		

*If bred heifers were exposed to parasites during gestation period, deworm prior to freshening

Seasonal Herd Program

Contamination Level	Late Fall	6 weeks after Turnout*
High	Deworm	Deworm
Moderate	Deworm	Deworm
Low	Deworm	Wait
Extremely Low	Monitor Annually	

*Or 6 weeks after the start of the spring grazing season



Hookworms invade the intestinal track and are difficult to treat with pour-on products.



Worming cows at freshening increases the effectiveness of the treatment and ensures maximum nutrient absorption when cows need it most.

- High - Cows grazing during lactation
- Moderate - Cows grazing during the dry period
- Low - Cows on dry lot
- Extremely Low - Total confinement or concrete dry lot

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«Address Line 1»
«City», «State» «ZIP Code»



We will be closed on Dec. 24 and Dec. 31. Sorry for any inconvenience.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays! Our sincere thanks for your valued business. We appreciate having you as our customer and look forward to serving you in the New Year.

PRAIRIE AG SUPPLY

