



Provimi's e-mail newsletter

In this newsletter, we would like to give you some tools to get more from your forages for dairy cows. We will also address the balancing of dairy rations. A real winter challenge! Our poultry topic talks about the growing concern of antibiotic resistance. Furthermore, we offer you insights of recent trials conducted in the Netherlands about milk replacers for both piglet and sow.

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Getting more from your forages

Feed costs are high and represent around 80% of milk production costs. Dried distillers grains are currently in this same price range, and the prices of other alternative feeds are keeping on an energy and protein basis, so there are no cheap supplemental feeds for milk producers. Farmers must utilize effective management tools that maximise forage digestibility. The conversion of fibrous forages to meat and milk is not efficient with only 10 to 35% of the energy intake being captured as energy to the animal, because 20 to 70% of the cellulose must be digested (Varga and Kolver, 1997).

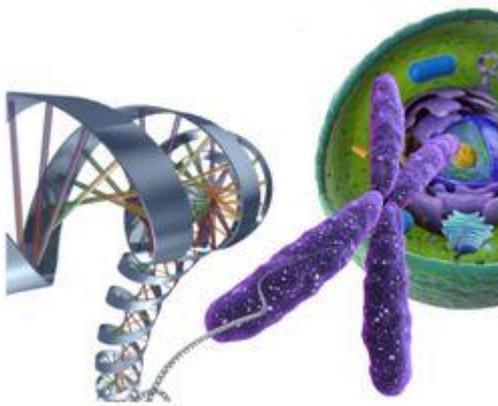


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The growing concern of antibiotic resistance

An increasing amount of awareness about antibiotic resistance occurs as this can pose serious problems for curing infectious diseases in humans and animals and this concern is expressed in different media. After antibiotics first became used they could cure the serious complications of many bacterial and infectious diseases found in both humans and animals. The development of antimicrobials against disease-causing bacteria meant that many bacterial diseases could be treated, and animal production improved. After more than 50 years of widespread use, many antimicrobials are not as effective as they once were because bacteria have developed ways to avoid the effects of antibiotics.



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[Milk replacers help both piglet AND sow](#)

Recent trials in the Netherlands have shown that supplying milk replacers to piglets during the lactation is beneficial to piglets and also to breeding sows.

In two experiments, it was observed that sows lose less weight where milk replacers are being fed to piglets during lactation. The extra energy from the milk replacer enabled faster growth rates to be achieved, and the piglets achieved these without putting more pressure on sows. As a result, the sows were less likely to mobilize excess body fat and fewer proteins were broken down.



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Balancing dairy rations - a winter challenge



Optimising rations for dairy cattle is not so difficult when nutrient demands are known and high quality forages are available. The latter is often a problem; therefore, balancing rations proves quite a challenge in practice: the quality of forages may vary, and the combination of forages and byproducts may change regularly.

Two aspects should be considered for the coming winter season:

1. Incredibly high prices for protein rich feedstuffs.
2. The wet spring season has yielded grass silages with a high structure value and low protein content.

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Meet Heather Walton

For the past two and a half years Heather Walton has been technical nutritionist for ruminants at Provimi UK. A varied role Heather looks after the company's ruminant mineral formulations and has some notable customer accounts. She is also responsible for label template designs for all products.

Based at Provimi's Dalton mill in North Yorkshire, Heather travels away from the office about once a month to either visit customers or to go to legislation meetings in the UK.



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In our next issue:

In our next issue of the e-mail newsletter you will read about:

- Eurotier
- and more!

