

Diagnostic checklist

Dietary correction

Herd: Manor Farm, Waterhay

Date : 02 Dec 2015

Type of feeding: Silage and Concentrate cake in parlour

Evaluate rumen stability and ration:

Symptoms	fE	gE	fP	gP	fF	sF	rS	Delay
3. Spinal chill (hair)	-1	-2	0	0	0	0	-1	2 wks
16. Changing (cowpats)	1	0	1	0	0	0	-2	24 h
18. 2cm fibres (cowpats)	-1	0	-2	-1	1	2	-1	24 h
1. PhG area (hair)	2	0	0	0	1	-1	-2	2 h
10. Dry skin (skin)	1	1	0	0	0	0	-1	1 wk
23. Urine yellow (urine)	-1	0	2	1	0	0	0	6 h
Totals	2	-1	3	1	1	-1	-6	
Global value	1		4		0		-6	

OBSALIM diagnosis:

The stand out Obsalim criteria remains rumen stability (rS) at -6. Although the symptoms showed signs of improvement, with cows coats improving, less spinal chill and overall improved synchronising of eating and ruminating; cows collectively lying down and ruminating for a few hours in the middle of the day. There are still improvements to be made to slow down the passage of food through the rumen and improve rumen stability. It is thought that increasing the course structural fibres will slow down the rumen. Therefore introducing straw into the diet would improve stability and improve absorption of nutrients as there remains a -1 global energy (gE), the amount of energy absorbed by the cow suggesting the cows are losing weight even though the energy available to the rumen flora (fE) is positive (2).

Adjustments to ration:

Add some loose straw on top of the silage into each feeding trough to allow cows to pick at these more course structural fibres alongside their silage.

For the energy intake (carbohydrates): fE : fermentable Energy gE : global Energy	For the fibres: fF : fermentable Fibres sF : structural Fibres
For the protein (nitrogen) intake: fP : fermentable Protein gP : global Protein	For the overall functioning of the rumen: rS : rumen Stability

Dietary observations list

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Step 1: The herd:

Homogeneity

Body condition:	Animals' vitality	Cleanliness
Generally ok	Coats improving, more shine, bright eyes and cows appear to have increased energy.	Muck spats on legs, but less than before change

Step 2 Check the cross of the hock (see cards 60 and 61):

Dirtiness below horizontal line: yes, muck spats on legs suggesting feeding is a problem
Dirtiness behind vertical line: no

The state of the hair and coat:

3. Assess rumen stability

pHG zone (card 1)	Variable pats (card 16 & 21)
Yes.	Yes. Potential for some of this to be partly due to the split of the herd between spring and autumn calving cows the autumn calving cows having more cake in the parlour.