

CONSULTANT'S DIGEST

High-Producing Cows: FAQs for Feeding Fat

Why do my cows need fat added to the ration?

Today's cow is genetically capable of making more milk. That's why it's essential to make every mouthful count. High-producing cows consuming an energy-packed diet with the right added fat produce more milk while maintaining body condition. Added fat also enhances reproductive performance and reduces effects of heat stress. It all adds up to a more robust bottom line.

How can I add fat to the ration?

Because they are unsaturated (liquid at room temperature), vegetable sources of fat such as cottonseed, soybeans, and high-oil corn can be added up to 2.5% of the ration's dry matter without negatively affecting rumen function. If convenient, tallow can be added up to 1 pound per cow per day. Then, to maximize the ration's energy density, the next step is to add a rumen-inert dry fat to raise total added fatty acids to 5%.

What types of dry fats are available?

Free fatty acids, calcium soaps of long-chain fatty acids, and partially hydrogenated fats (PHFs) are all dry fats. As dry fats, they are more convenient to handle in feeding systems, but that's where the similarity ends.

The first dry fats developed, PHFs are animal or vegetable fats that have been chemically changed to make them solid. Though the chemical alteration helps reduce negative effects in the rumen, it also makes them very poorly digested (as low as 40%).

Calcium soaps were the second generation of dry fats. These fats provide increased energy and improved digestibility over PHFs, but they contain 45% or more unsaturated fatty acids—the kind that upsets rumen fermentation, reduces appetite, and depresses dry matter intake.

Pure free fatty acids, only available as Energy Booster 100®, are the latest advancement in dry fats. Fed in the form the cow is naturally designed to digest, absorb, and use, they are pound-for-pound more energy dense than any other fat. Because of their high digestibility and fatty acid profile, cows keep eating...so they maintain their intake and their intake is higher in energy.

What are rumen-inert dry fats and advantages of feeding them?

Rumen-inert dry fats do not disturb rumen function because they pass through the rumen without causing chemical changes. These fats are digested in the small intestine. Pure free fatty acids, only available as Energy Booster 100, are the most inert in the rumen.

Do rumen-inert fats depress dry matter intake?

Fat's influence on dry matter intake is affected by two factors: palatability and the presence of unsaturated fatty acids, which stimulate the release of hormones that signal the cow to stop eating. Research shows dry matter intake decreases when as little as ¼ pound of calcium soaps are part of the ration. Studies demonstrate that cows fed Energy Booster 100 maintain dry matter intake.

So which factors should I consider when selecting a dry fat?

There are many measurements you can compare, but the most important criteria are: 1) total energy content, 2) effect on dry matter intake, 3) digestibility, and 4) cost per pound. These four factors determine the most crucial overall measurement: cost-effectiveness.

What makes Energy Booster 100® the premier rumen-inert dry fat, especially for high-producing cows?

With the highest Net Energy for Lactation value (NE_L) of all the dry fats, Energy Booster 100 contains pure free fatty acids to provide the most efficient means of delivering energy to high-producers. Research proves it is more rumen inert than calcium SOAPS and much more digestible than PHFs. And you won't see a drop in dry matter intake because it's high in saturated fatty acids and because...well, cows like it. Bottom line, Energy Booster 100 is proven to improve milk production and to maximize economic return per feed dollar.

***Put your money where their mouths are!
Maintain dry matter intake and pack
each mouthful with MORE ENERGY!***