



Participatory research in the UK

Improving Cow Health

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Diagnostic checklist

Dietary correction

Herd: Pidnell Farm, Faringdon (MILKING HERD)

Date: 19 Jan 2016

Type of feeding: Mixed ration (4.5kg wheat, 1kg peas, 0.7kg straw, 1kg soya, 4kg haylage)

Evaluate rumen stability and ration:

Symptoms	<u>fE</u>	<u>gE</u>	<u>fP</u>	<u>gP</u>	<u>fF</u>	<u>sF</u>	<u>rS</u>	Delay
12. Liquid (cowpats)	2	1	0	0	1	0	-1	24h
56. Congestive disease (general)	2	1	0	0	2	0	-2	24h
34. Pale (noses)	0	0	-1	-1	0	0	0	1 <u>wk</u>
Totals	4	2	-1	-1	3	0	-3	
Global value	6		-2		3		-3	
<i>Secondary symptoms to note</i>								
29. Protruding third eyelid (eye)	-1	0	-1	0	1	1	0	4days
15. Bubbling (cowpats)	2	1	-1	0	1	0	-2	24h
Totals	5	3	-3	-1	5	1	-5	
Global value	8		-4		6		-5	



OBSALIM diagnosis

- Andrew had made a diagnosis of too much energy on previous Obsalim assessments he had made (and the wheat had been dropped by 1kg one and half weeks ago) but again on today's assessment this remains the stand out factor with fE at 4 with the standout symptoms and rising further to 5 with the secondary symptoms.
- This suggests too much fast fermenting starch within the diet, the excess of energy causing a drop in the pH and negative effect on activity of rumen flora. OM indicators



Adjustments to ration

It is planned to reduce the wheat quantity within the ration further to reduce energy intake. It is suggested to cut by a further ½ kg straight away and then reduce by another ½ kg more steadily over a few days. The pats and the mastitis should show signs of improvement within 24 h if the energy level becomes at a more balanced level. It is thought the quality of the haylage is far better than the sample assessment, hence not needing the quantity of wheat that is currently within the ration.

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



Step 1: The herd:

Homogeneity

Body condition:	Animals' vitality	Cleanliness
Good	Coats look a little dull	Muck spats on legs – very liquid pats

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

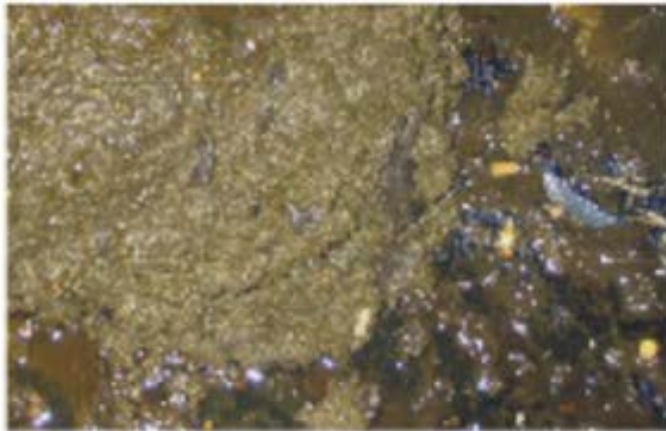
pHG zone (card 1)	Variable pats (card 16 & 21)



Cowpats

Fragments of mucus 13.

- Shiny small deposits of mucus like fish scales on the pats.
- Digestion satisfactory; energy, protein (nitrogen) and fibres well balanced.
- Dehydration or lack of drinking water.



Delay : 24 h						
fE	gE	fP	gP	fF	sF	rS
0	0	0	0	1	1	2

Eye

Redness 28.

- Redness of the inside of the eyelids, shiny appearance of the eyeball due to hypertension.
- Too many carbohydrates, possible acidosis.
- Irritation by wind, dust, insects or individual disease.



Delay : 24 h						
fE	gE	fP	gP	fF	sF	rS
2	1	0	0	0	-1	0





Thank you

SOLID | Sustainable Organic
and Low Input Dairying

