

High-Sugar Forage Cuts Pollution

Improved microbial activity improves feed-to-milk protein conversion



Dairy cattle grazing on high-sugar grass in Wales, United Kingdom.

Feeding cattle on high-sugar grasses can help dairy farmers reduce the level of environmental pollution according to recent research from the Institute

of Grassland and Environmental Research (IGER) in Wales, UK.

Results from summer, 2006 show that when fed grass with a higher level of sugar, dairy cows digest more of the protein they ingest. The increase of efficiency means less nitrogen waste goes into the land.

Improved Microbe Activity

The main reason for lower conversion of grass protein into milk protein is that the microbes in the animal's rumen cannot keep pace with the simpler nitrogen containing compounds.

By feeding the microbes higher levels of rapidly digestible carbohydrates (sugars), the microbes receive extra energy which in turn helps cows use more of the ingested protein. The result is less nitrogen waste and more milk pro-

duction.

Using grass varieties with high levels (16.5 percent) of sugars, seven percent more of the feed nitrogen was converted to milk protein than when the cows were fed normal grass (12.6 percent sugar) in the IGER study. Cows fed high-sugar grass lost 25 percent of feed nitrogen in urine compared with 35 percent loss by cows fed the control grass variety.

Results for mid-lactating cows showed similar improvements in feed to milk protein conversion efficiency and milk production.

For more information:

Grassland Oregon Keizer, OR (503-566-9900/postmaster@grasslandoregon.com) is exclusive U.S. distributor of IGER high sugar forage products.

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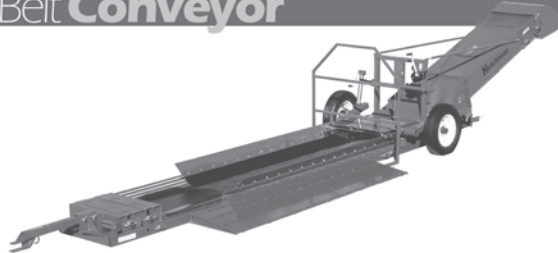
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