

Advance minerals deliver health benefits

Over the last nine months Wiltshire dairy farmer Nick Helyer (pictured) has seen herd performance improve in nearly all key areas. Milk yield is showing a sustained increase of 0.5 litres per cow per day, but more importantly, mastitis cases are down by 5 per cent and foot health has improved by ten per cent.

What's more fertility performance, increasingly a concern for many herds, has improved dramatically, with a reduction in calving interval of 23 days (to 401 days), a reduction in average days to first service of 6 days and an increase in pregnancy rate of 13 per cent.

Nick farms near Salisbury and runs 200 Holstein cows as well as a sizeable arable operation on 1425 acres, which ranges from downland to prime arable land. Averaging 9500 litres per lactation at 3.8% butterfat and 3.12% protein, the milk is sold to Medina Dairies on a liquid contract.

"Fertility is something we have been trying to improve for some time," explained Nick. "Cows were milking well but were not showing signs of heat and were not holding to service as well as we would have liked."

Cows are fed a TMR ration all year, which consists of maize and grass silage, Trafford Gold and a blend, with added fats and minerals.

And a change in these minerals is one of the things that Nick feels has helped deliver the improvements in performance. Around twelve months ago he started using [Advance Milking Cow performance minerals](#) on the recommendation of his Kite Consultant, Mike Bray.

These minerals use a unique patented mineral-amino acid



bonding technology to bond parts of the copper, zinc and manganese to single amino acids. This allows more than 90% rumen protection, ensuring that the mineral is effectively transported through the rumen and into the blood stream of the cow.

Comprehensive, independent, peer-reviewed trials have shown that this has four key benefits - helping fertility, udder health, milk yield and feet. Results have shown that cows come on heat quicker and get into calf earlier, translating into a higher proportion of the herd being pregnant at 150 days. [On average, trial results have shown cows getting pregnant 13 days earlier than those fed on other minerals!](#)

Trials also typically show a milk yield increase (average 1.1 litres/day) and an average somatic cell count reduction of 50,000/ml.

Continued on page 2...

in this issue...

[Advance minerals deliver health benefits](#) | [Preventing the effects of heat stress in cows](#)
[Advanced HealthyRumen](#) | [About us...](#)

When it comes to foot health, no one feed ingredient can eliminate foot problems but the combination of specific protected minerals in **Advance Milking Cow performance minerals** helps strengthen the structure of the foot.

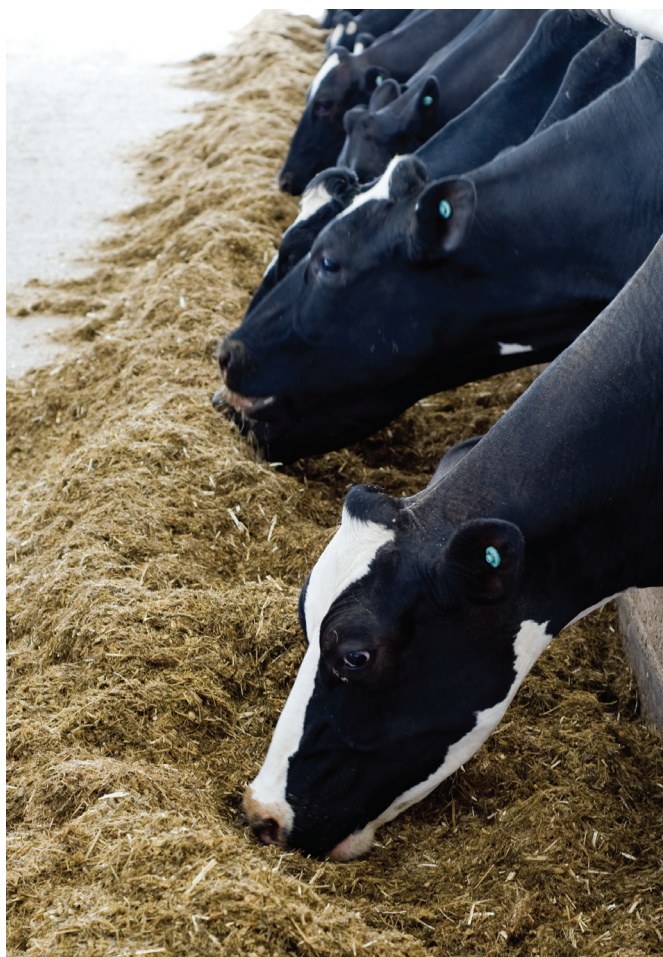
This has been shown to decrease the incidence of double soling, white line separation, sole haemorrhages and sole ulcers combined with a decrease in the incidence and severity of claw lesions.

Overall, Nick Helyer is convinced that the change in minerals is helping to deliver some of his performance improvements. "We have seen a progressive advance in fertility, foot and udder health and I am convinced that the new protected minerals are the reason," Nick said. "Our results are improving and the cows are definitely bulling better and holding to service. I wouldn't go back now!"

Not only is Nick using the new minerals for his milking cows but he is also using **Advanced DCAB dry cow feed**, which incorporates the same amino acid bonded mineral elements. This has been shown to enhance milking cow performance even more.

His dry cow regime includes feeding **Advanced DCAB** for 3 weeks prior to calving as well as 15-18kg of his mid-yielders ration and *ad lib* straw. **Ketocol** is also added to drinking water to increase blood glucose levels, reducing the risk of ketosis post calving.

Since adopting the **Advanced DCAB system**, Nick has seen



improvements in fresh cow performance, with fewer DAs and retained cleansings.

"Using **Advanced DCAB** combined with **Ketocol** has transformed our fresh cow performance," Nick concluded.

Summary

The advantages of feeding Advance Milking Cow performance minerals are:

- Increased milk yield
- Improved udder health
- Improved fertility
- Better feet
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This can lead to potential benefits of as much as £80/cow/year!

All Advance's minerals are independently tested to ensure quality. Microtraces are used to check the levels of amino acid complexes.

Not all minerals are the same!

For more information or to order any of these products please contact Mark Perry at Advance Sourcing on 01823 491238.

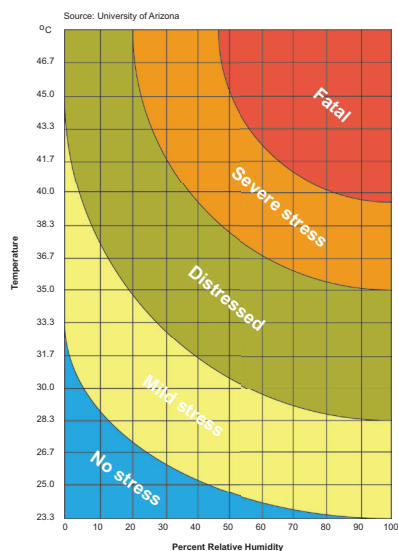
adding value to your business

Preventing the effects of heat stress in cows

We are approaching the danger time for heat stress in cows. The ideal temperature for a cow is 5°C. At 21°C they become uncomfortable and above 23 - 25°C they start to lose milk and butterfat, have an increasing risk of acidosis, embryo loss, becoming anoestrus and an increased incidence of mastitis and lameness.

When does heat stress occur?

The following chart shows the degrees of stress at varying temperatures and humidities:



Signs of heat stress

- Fall in dry matter intake
- Standing longer
- Lethargy
- Seeking out shade
- Panting, open mouth breathing and drooling
- Increased water intake

Results of heat stress

- Drop in milk yield and butterfats
- Reduced oestrus activity and increased embryonic death
- Immune system breakdown which can result in more

mastitis, higher cell counts, IBR and BVD breakdowns – even when vaccinated.

- Lower rumen pH, resulting in acidosis – either clinical or sub clinical
- Laminitis, sole ulcers, white line disease and general lameness

Prevention of heat stress and the effects of heat stress

- Provide plenty of water – a 30 litre cow normally requires 85 litres (18 gallons) of clean water per day. During times of heat stress this can increase by up to 50% due to respiratory losses and sweating.
- Ensure there is plenty of trough space, especially at the parlour exit where cows drink most. Add extra troughs if necessary and clean out troughs regularly to keep the water fresh.
- Provide plenty of room and shade – high yielders and pre calvers are most prone to heat stress, so keep cows in during the hottest part of the day, keep cows well spaced out, especially in the collecting yard, open up as much of the sides of the buildings as possible and open up roof ridges
- Install fans in the collecting yard, parlour and housing areas – installing fans in these areas makes a big difference and ideally a water misting system should be added to make the fan system even more effective. Contact Advance to arrange for a free on-farm assessment.
- Alter the diet – maximise dry matter intakes, increase the forage in the buffer to keep the forage:concentrate ratio right.
- Ideally feed twice/day removing any heating leftovers or add Ecosyl TMR stabiliser.
- Consider adding protected fat, e.g. BF160 to the diet to add energy without risking increased acidosis.
- Also consider adding 100g Acid Buf to the diet to guard against acidosis and adding 100g Actisaf Sc 47 (formerly Biosaf) yeast to improve fibre digestion and improve rumen health.

Summary

Depending upon relative humidity, cows can start to suffer from heat stress when temperatures reach 21 – 23°C. These are not excessive temperatures during a British summer so you should be thinking about preventative measures. For competitive prices on fans, misting systems, Protected fats, Actisaf Sc 47 yeast and Acidbuf contact us on 01823 491238.



Advanced HealthyRumen

High performance cows need a happy, healthy rumen to achieve maximum dry matter intakes and to maintain high levels of milk output and quality. Sometimes the high starch and sugar diets we feed can cause either clinical or sub-clinical acidosis and rumen buffers are a key method of countering this.

Signs of acidosis include:

- Low butterfats
- Reduced or inconsistent intakes
- Loose and/or bubbly dung
- Poor rumen fill
- Excessive weight loss
- Increased lameness and/or mastitis
- Tail swishing
- Poor fertility

Feeding large quantities of grazed grass can also contribute to acidosis, as can heat stress, so acidosis can therefore be a problem at any time of the year. Because of this, Advance has been looking at rumen buffers to find the best, simplest and most economical way of resolving this issue on farm. Consequently we have developed [Advanced HealthyRumen](#).



Cows at grass can still be at risk from acidosis

[Advanced HealthyRumen](#) is a broad spectrum combination of yeasts and rumen buffers that tackles the acidosis problem in different ways.

Yeasts have been shown to have a major effect in reducing the acid load in the rumen and encouraging better feed utilisation and performance. We have included [Actisaf Sc 47](#) (formerly Biosaf), a protected live yeast as we believe it is the most effective live yeast available. [Acid Buf](#) is produced from calcified seaweed and we believe is the most successful product for neutralising excess rumen acids and raising rumen pH. This is also included along with other rumen buffering products.

Clinical and sub-clinical acidosis can cost you thousands of pounds each year from losses in milk yield and quality. But there are also losses from health and fertility issues, which are not always immediately obvious. The cost of a highly effective, broad spectrum rumen buffer pack such as [Advanced HealthyRumen](#) is quickly repaid in benefits which far outweigh the cost.

About us...

Advance Sourcing is a sister company to Kite Consulting, but you don't have to be a Kite client to benefit from our services. We secure the best deals on a broad range of specialist agricultural inputs for our farmer clients, using the technical expertise of Kite consultants to set the optimum specifications before tendering for our supplies. We work with a large number of trusted suppliers and our aim is simple – to keep you ahead of the competition by sourcing technically sound products that will make or save you money. Our mission is to add value to your business, so why not give us a try?

For enquiries regarding the information in this newsletter please contact:

Advance Sourcing | The Barton | Meare Green Farm | North Curry | Taunton | Somerset | TA3 6HT
Tel: 01823 491238 | Fax: 01823 491240 | Email: enquiries@advancesourcing.co.uk | www.advancesourcing.co.uk