

MILK FAT DEPRESSION

HERD:
Red Rock Dairy,
Amherst, Texas

PROBLEM:
Butterfat severely
depressed and protein
levels dropped

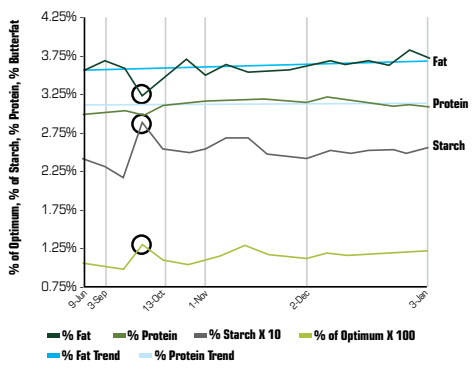


In September 2010, Red Rock Dairy experienced a drop in milk butterfat and protein.

- » Butterfat levels dropped from 3.70 to 3.25.
- » Protein levels, while less significant of a drop, were down from 3.04 to 2.91.
- » A starch digestibility test was conducted on the ration ingredients using a certified Calibrate® lab and analysis.
- » Results showed that the herd was feeding more than 130 percent of the optimum level of ruminally digested starch.
- » Because more ruminally degraded starch was delivered to the cow, butter fat was depressed.
- » A recent change in feed ingredients without prior rumen digestible starch analysis was found to be the cause.
- » About a month after the nutritionist adjusted the ration to a more optimal rumen digestible starch level, butterfat levels returned to normal. (See Figure 1.)
- » Red Rock Dairy continues to test rumen digestible starch levels on a regular basis.

"We thought the feed change was a good move, but it obviously was not once we saw the response," notes Johnny Van de Pol, herd manager. "After testing with Calibrate®, we were able to back the herd off these ingredients and adjust the ration to a more optimal starch level."

FIGURE 1



Charting ration statistics over time illustrated when starch availability fluctuated, percent butter fat did as well.

SOLUTION:

Calibrate® Technologies



CALIBRATE®

Making ration adjustments based on insight from Calibrate® technology allowed Red Rock Dairy to:

- » Return butterfat to normal levels.
- » Determine optimal rumen digestible starch.
- » Increase overall cow health and performance.
- » Increase overall herd profitability.

"The higher the feed costs get, the better investment this service becomes. It helps us make sure we are not overfeeding or underfeeding in a particular area. And, it gives us a better idea how the ration is going to react within the cow before we even feed it to her."

Johnny Van de Pol
Manager

MANAGE HIGH INPUT AND FEED COSTS.

STABILIZE INCONSISTENT MILK COMPONENTS.

OVERCOME THE CHALLENGE OF FEEDING MORE FORAGE.

NO MATTER WHAT YOUR GOAL, CALIBRATE® TECHNOLOGIES CAN HELP.