

STARCH IMPACTS CORN HYBRID SELECTION



HERD:

Knott Run Dairy
Buhl, Idaho

PROBLEM:

Starch levels in corn hybrids varied resulting in slight fluctuations in components and production.

When Knott Run Dairy decided to test the starch level in its corn silage six months ago, the herd was shocked at the information it uncovered. This farm grows all of its own forages and frequently runs test plots for various seed companies.

- » Starch levels varied from 35 percent down to 25 percent on harvested forages.
- » With the results from ruminal starch digestibility tests the herd was able to correlate the information with harvest records to determine starch digestibility on the hybrids harvested.
- » Knowing the Calibrate® ruminal starch (GPN) value of the corn hybrids allowed this farm to select corn hybrids that were better suited for the cows, in addition to being agronomically fit for its fields.
- » Further investigation showed that the changes in starch levels also correlated to times when the herd saw production changes or swings in component levels.
- » Information from Calibrate® Technologies, along with the online nutritional calculator, allowed the herd nutritionist to adjust the ration and regain that butterfat level back within a week, instead of waiting two or three weeks for other laboratory results.
- » The herd could have continued to lose money for three weeks or more, while trying to figure out the issue through trial and error, if it hadn't been using Calibrate® Technologies to pinpoint starch variation.
- » The herd has continued to run tests every two weeks. Tests are taken on Monday and the analysis is received on Thursday or Friday of the same week. Based on results the ration is adjusted for variations in starch.

"We were astounded at the amount of variation in the starch content of the corn silage"

Margaret Winsyrg, a nutrition specialist who helps this particular farm with its Calibrate® Technologies tests

SOLUTION:

Calibrate® Technologies



CALIBRATE®

Making ration adjustments based on insight from Calibrate® technology allowed Knott Run Dairy to:

- » Select corn hybrids that were well suited for the cows and fields.
- » Reduce milk component fluctuation.
- » Determine optimal rumen digestible starch.
- » Increase overall herd performance.
- » Optimize overall herd profitability.

"Without the insights from the Calibrate® Technology rapid starch tests, it's just a guessing game if component, dry matter intakes or production fluctuations are resulting from starch variation, because most values look at total tract starch digestibility, Calibrate® technologies looks at ruminal starch digestibility... Within the time period of one week, producer and nutritionist can more closely identify if starch is the culprit. If starch levels didn't change in the ration, I can quickly rule out starch and move onto another culprit."

Margaret Winsyrg, Nutritionist

MANAGE HIGH INPUT AND FEED COSTS.

STABILIZE INCONSISTENT MILK COMPONENTS.

UTILIZE MORE OF YOUR HOME-GROWN FORAGES.

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