



ESSENTIAL – BEEF FEED ADDITIVE

What is it?

Essential is a proprietary blend of cashew nut shell liquid and castor oil that increases ruminal fermentation, increases the proportion of propionate relative to acetate, while at the same time controlling ruminal pH efficiently.

Expected benefits

Calves

- Decrease in scours
- Better immunity
- Better average daily gains

Beef cattle

- Better carcass yield and grade
- Better immunity response to disease challenges
- Control of ruminal pH

Mode of action

The three active compounds of Essential (cardol, cardanol, and ricinoleic acid) inhibit gram positive bacteria which are the producers of lactic acid. Lactic acid causes the drop in rumen pH that results in acidosis. At the same time, Essential supplementation increases the activity of the other bacteria which increases the rate of digestion. There will be a shift in volatile fatty acid production: more propionate and less acetate, which will decrease methane production which will result in an increase in energy efficiency. All of this results in increased intake and a higher average daily gain.

Dosage

Calves: 1 g/head/day.

Adult ruminants: 1 g/5 lbs of dry matter intake.

Advantages over monensin

- It controls rumen pH as efficiently while also increasing intake
- Non-antibiotic