



ESSENTIAL: pH CONTROL, INCREASED PRODUCTION AND MILK SOLIDS

What is it?

Essential is a proprietary blend of cashew nut shell liquid and castor oil that increases ruminal fermentation, increasing the proportions of propionate and decreasing acetate, while at the same time it controls ruminal pH efficiently.

Expected results

- Increased intake
- Increased milk production while maintaining butterfat percentage
- 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. All of this results in an increase of intake, milk production and total milk solids.

Interactions

It is recommended NOT to use monensin at the same time as Essential. The changes in ruminal fermentation caused by monensin (decreased fermentation and formation of trans fatty acids in the rumen) are not counteracted by Essential and, therefore, some of the advantages of Essential such as butterfat production or increased intake are lost.

Dosage

10-15 g/cow/day, depending on the intake. Approximately, 1 g/5 lbs of dry matter intake.

Advantages over monensin

- It controls rumen pH as efficiently without decreasing butterfat
- Increased intake
- Non-antibiotic