

International Dairy Topics

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Practical information for progressive dairy professionals

HOOF HEALTH

This basic practice need not be expensive

PROTEIN

A new tool to minimise losses in dairy farming

HEAT STRESS

Minimise the damage with macroalgal extracts

HOUSING & COW COMFORT

We look at options from around the world

BARRIER FLORA

Bacteria to modulate the microbiota of hooves

COPPER METABOLISM

The unknown consequence of SARA



First on-farm diagnostics



Zoetis has launched Vetscan Mastigram+, a rapid on-farm mastitis

diagnostic. It uses a simple flow dipstick test to detect Gram-positive mastitis in just eight hours, enabling results before the next milking. Because often only Gram-positive cases will benefit from treatment with antimicrobials, a farmer or vet can use this information to deliver more targeted therapy and ensure antimicrobial usage is focused only on cows that need it.

"There is a lot of focus on the responsible use of antibiotics right now. If we can use the Mastigram+ test to differentiate whether we've got a Gram-positive causal agent or not, it will really help with the prudent use of antimicrobials," Dr Andrew Hancock, BVetBiol, BVSc, MVS MVSc, Principal Veterinary Officer for cattle at the Victorian Chief Veterinary Officer's Unit in Australia, told International Dairy Topics.

Mastitis is inflammation of the mammary gland caused by trauma or infection, which can lead to decreased production and abnormal milk, a lot of which needs to be discarded.

It is a key issue facing dairy herd health management and is estimated to cost the global dairy industry up

to \$32 billion annually. Mastitis requires farmers and vets to consider treatment costs, decreased reproductive performance and, in some cases, the premature culling or death of a cow.

Being able to distinguish between Gram-positive and non-Gram-positive mastitis cases helps farmers and veterinarians to use more targeted treatment for dairy cows. Mastigram+ is designed to fit within existing dairy workflows, a 1mL milk sample from a suspected mastitis case at the time of milking is all that is needed for a diagnosis. Identifying where there is a need for antimicrobial use reduces the time that milk from cows is withheld, getting milk back in the bulk tank up to four days sooner and saving money.

Mastigram+ is uniquely designed to quickly establish whether a Gram-positive causal agent is present in cow's milk.

The simple flow dipstick test can be used in just minutes and will detect the pathogen with just 1mL of milk, producing a result in eight hours. It delivers over 99% sensitivity and 100% specificity and can differentiate between Gram-positive and a non-Gram-positive mastitis infection 100% of the time.

zoetis.com

Partnership for eco-friendly solutions



Alltech recently announced it has acquired a majority interest in Agolin. Agolin's high-quality essential oil blends are scientifically proven to optimise feed intake and performance, including improved milk and meat production. Furthermore, Agolin Ruminant was the first feed additive certified by The Carbon Trust for methane reduction in ruminants (2018). Now, organisations such as Verra and Gold Standard are including it in their major international climate protection projects.

The alliance between Alltech and Agolin will empower farmers and ranchers to reach their sustainability goals while also supporting the performance and profitability of the cattle in their herds and supply chains. The synergistic use of Alltech and Agolin nutritional technologies leads to benefits such as improved

animal welfare, greater feed efficiency and conversion, enhanced milk and meat production, increased profitability, and a reduced environmental footprint, including a boost in nitrogen efficiency.

The partners will also be exploring opportunities to develop new technologies that bring together the best of Alltech's proven nutrition and Agolin's essential oil blends. Agolin has a presence in Europe, Asia and North America. Alltech's majority interest in the company will expand the availability of Agolin to additional markets.

Agolin focuses on research and development to produce and market innovative feed additives based on plant active ingredients, which are effective and easy to use. Its essential oil blends are backed by a strong quality management system (FAMI-QS), which ensures safety and guarantees traceability.

alltech.com



Initiative reaches 40,000



LastMile, an initiative to train smallholder farmers in Africa on

the prevention of animal diseases and leverage access to veterinary medicine, has reached more than 40,000 farmers in six countries.

The initiative aims to bridge the gap ('last mile') in access, availability, and awareness of animal healthcare solutions in hard-to-reach areas. This improves productivity and income generation, hence ensuring food security and livelihood for the local communities.

LastMile, launched in 2018, is an initiative by Boehringer Ingelheim, in partnership with the Global Alliance for Livestock Veterinary Medicines (GALVmed) and funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF). It supports smallholder farmers in Kenya, Cameroon, Nigeria, Mali, Burkina Faso, and Ethiopia, and has enabled 56 product registrations in these countries as well as Uganda and Tanzania.

By increasing the number of registered products, Boehringer Ingelheim facilitates access to more

treatment options for farmers and veterinarians.

"LastMile is a sustainable model for smallholder farmers with a positive impact on vulnerable communities. It supports our commitment towards improving the health and wellbeing of animals by increasing disease awareness and improving access to animal medicine," Tiago Teixeira, Project Lead for LastMile at Boehringer Ingelheim told International Dairy Topics.

Animal technicians from local communities play a crucial role in demonstrating product usage and providing education to smallholder farmers. More than 20 animal technicians held close to 20,000 farm visits and consulted more than 17,000 agricultural retail shops on how to optimise product availability and shelving.

Furthermore, during more than 8,600 visits to veterinarians, animal technicians provided them with information and training on prevention and treatment options.

boehringer-ingelheim.com

Guidebook for mycotoxins in feed



Mycotoxins have long been recognised as a significant challenge in livestock production, jeopardising animal health, performance, and overall profitability. However, some in the industry continue to downplay the impact these compounds can have on their operations and/or rely on misconceptions or outdated information when developing their mitigation strategies.

With Mycopedia, Adisseo aims to empower industry professionals, who may not be experts in these

toxins but require comprehensive knowledge, to effectively mitigate their adverse effects, with the latest in insights and opinions from academic and industry experts in the field.

Discover the world of mycotoxins with Adisseo's easy-to-navigate guidebook. Unique in its kind, it is also easy for any reader interested in a specific topic to delve into it further with its section on data sources. As a tool, it is both handy and timesaving for anyone interested in learning more about mycotoxins in animal nutrition.

adisseo.com