

Ionophores in Late Lactation

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Most farms in Victoria are in mid to late stage of lactation at this time of year. This is a crucial time for a cow in terms of her nutrition and preparation for next lactation. Losses in body condition from early lactation need to be recovered so that the cow is at Body Condition Score 5 (on the 1-8 scale) by drying off time. In the last 100 days of lactation the cow is able to eat more than her requirement for energy, so she can use the extra nutrients in her feed towards restoring body condition. Providing good nutrition to your cows at this time is important since the cow will gain weight more efficiently while she is still milking compared to when she is dry.



Why use an ionophore?

- Adding an ionophore such as Rumensin (Sodium Monensin) or Bovatec (Lasalocid) to the ration of lactating dairy cows will increase the energy available from feed.
- Increases in milk production of 1.7 litres per cow per day have been reported by the Macalister Research Farm.
- In early lactation this increased energy reduces the severity of a negative energy balance, improving milk production and aiding in the control of ketosis.
- In late lactation the extra energy is channelled into weight gain and improving the rate and efficiency of milk production.

A cost efficient option for the whole lactation

It costs just a few cents per cow per day to have an ionophore added to your Reid Stockfeeds ration and will give your cows the advantage of more energy at every stage of lactation. So whether you are looking for milk production and ketosis control in early lactation, or production efficiency and body condition in late lactation, ionophores can provide you with a cost efficient aid to achieve your goals. For more information, ask your Langdon Produce nutritionist.