

Milk Urea Nitrogen

The level of Urea Nitrogen in the milk is reflective of the level of protein in the diet.

Measuring the nitrogen content of a food allows its protein content to be derived.

Dietary Protein Digestion

- Excess protein in the diet leads to high levels of ammonia and urea in the animal.
- Both ammonia and urea are nitrogen containing compounds.
- The ammonia comes from protein broken down in the rumen by rumen microbes.
- Part of the ammonia is used by the animal and the excess has to be got rid of.
- The excess ammonia is detoxified in the liver and converted to urea for excretion.

High Urea Nitrogen

- High urea levels in the blood and milk are problematic for fertility and performance.
- A lot of energy is lost converting ammonia to urea in the liver.
- This energy could be used for milk protein output, improved fertility and more milk.

- Milk Urea Nitrogen is measured in mg/l (milligrams per litre).
- The optimal urea content in milk is between 270 and 350 mg/l.
- A level lower than 270 mg/l indicates that the diet is low in protein.
- A level greater than 350 mg/l indicates that the diet is too high in protein.

Practical Observation

- Cows scouring at grass is a good indication that the grass is high in protein.
- Cows scouring at grass also indicates that the grass is low in fibre.
- Novatan Protein Protector reduces urea nitrogen levels in the animal.
- Novatan Protein Protector reduces pasture scouring and helps fertility.
- Novatan Protein Protector is included in GAIN Premium Spring Breeder Nut.

Monitor Milk Urea Nitrogen levels to optimise efficiency