



## From Prefresh to Rebreeding: Make Transition Count

The transition period is the most critical time during a cow's lifecycle and, if managed correctly, can have the most direct impact on successful peak milk production and reproductive performance.

### Keep Cows Eating Prepartum with Negative DCAD

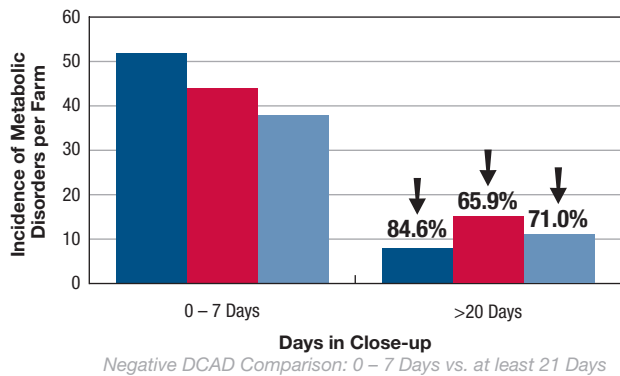
One of the main reasons cows struggle through the transition period is because they stop eating. And if they aren't eating, it's a good bet they will freshen with metabolic disorders, leading to a myriad of health problems in the first 60 days in milk (if they last that long). That's what makes focusing on DMI so critical.

Maintain DMI in close-up cows by lowering ration DCAD to an optimal range of -8 to -12 meq/100g ration dry matter. Research confirms<sup>1</sup> a negative DCAD during the three weeks prepartum:

- Assists in the transfer of calcium from bone to bloodstream
- Increases milk production postpartum
- Reduces the incidence of milk fever, retained placentas and uterine infections postcalving

### BIO-CHLOR Health Benefits<sup>1</sup>

■ Milk Fevers ■ Retained Placentas ■ Uterine Infections



Corbett, Journal of Dairy Science, 2001.

### The Right Safety Net

Nutritionists agree that BIO-CHLOR<sup>®</sup> Rumen Fermentation Enhancer offers the safety net prefresh cows need to lower DCAD and encourage DMI. According to Dr. Mike Hutjens, University of Illinois Dairy Extension Specialist, adding BIO-CHLOR to the ration safely lowers DCAD to the optimal range, reducing incidence of costly metabolic disorders.

"By feeding BIO-CHLOR in the precalving ration, we improve cows' ability to mobilize calcium from their bones and increase efficiency of calcium absorption and utilization," says Dr. Hutjens. "Lowering DCAD in the close-up group can facilitate optimal DMI, while reducing the risk of metabolic disorders."

*"By feeding BIO-CHLOR in the precalving ration, we improve cows' ability to mobilize calcium from their bones and increase efficiency of calcium absorption and utilization." — Dr. Mike Hutjens*



High-quality, research-proven feed ingredients deliver the reliable and consistent nutrient profiles your clients' heifers and cows need to join the milking string and get bred in a timely manner.

For more information on Arm & Hammer Animal Nutrition products, please contact your Old Mill – Troy sales representative or call 800-945-4474.



### Once in the Breeding Pen ...

How smoothly cows enter the milking string will influence more than milk yield—the effectiveness of the transition period will also impact reproductive performance.

Poor reproductive function continues to plague dairies, resulting in increased costs for synchronization programs and delays in getting cows pregnant. In addition, reproductive diseases are an added expense. Avoiding these problems, rather than treating them, should be the goal.

New research<sup>2</sup> confirms both goals can be accomplished by feeding MEGALAC<sup>®</sup>-R Omega-3 and Omega-6 Essential Fatty Acids (EFAs).

### Study Design

The University of Arizona study assigned 169 cows to one of two groups with product inclusions as shown in the table.

Diets Fed Pre- and Postpartum (lbs./cow/day)		
	MEGALAC	MEGALAC-R
Prepartum	0.25	0.25
Postpartum	0.35	0.35

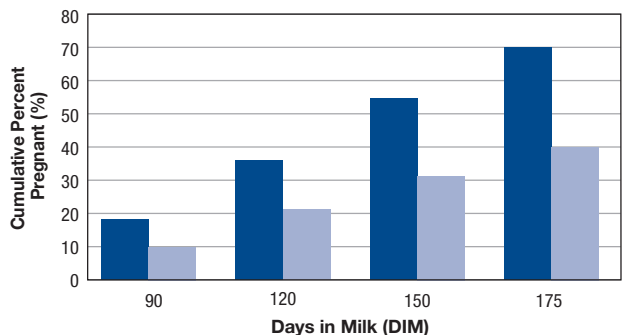
In the study, cows fed MEGALAC-R:

- **Resumed regular ovarian activity quicker** than cows fed the control diet.
- **Had better conception.** Significantly fewer days to first service, services per conception and days open.
- **Experienced fewer metabolic disorders.** The treatment group experienced 31 percent fewer cases of metritis by 30 DIM.
- **Got pregnant sooner.** At 175 DIM, 70 percent of the treatment cows were confirmed pregnant compared to only 40 percent of the control group.

The transition period is the most stressful and critical for dairy cows. By properly formulating the ration with research-proven, high-quality feed ingredients, your clients' herds can bypass metabolic disorders and maintain DMI. This will allow each cow to successfully join the milking string, get pregnant in a timely manner and perform to its potential.

### Cumulative Pregnancies by Days in Milk

■ MEGALAC-R ■ Control



1 Corbett R. Journal of Dairy Science Abstracts, 2001

2 Bowen AJ. The Effects of Dietary Linoleic and Linolenic Acids on Reproductive Performance in Holstein Cows. [Master's thesis]. Department of Animal Sciences, University of Arizona; 2008.

© 2008 Church & Dwight Co., Inc. The Arm & Hammer logo is a registered trademark of Church & Dwight Company. BIO-CHLOR<sup>®</sup> is a registered trademark of Church & Dwight Co., Inc. MEGALAC<sup>®</sup> is a registered trademark of Volac International Limited and is licensed to Church & Dwight Co., Inc.

