

# Animate<sup>®</sup>

Anionic Mineral Supplement

## Palatability of ANIMATE in a Total Mixed Ration and Fed to Pre-Partum Dairy Cows

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### INTRODUCTION

Palatability is defined as the pleasing or satisfactory aspect of feed (Van Soest, 1982). Common factors influencing palatability include feed particle size and density, degree of rancidity and sugar content. Palatability also may apply to free-choice consumption of certain portions over others of a single feed.

### OBJECTIVE

The objective of this trial was to confirm that ANIMATE will not adversely affect intake when supplementing a non-lactating dairy cow diet.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

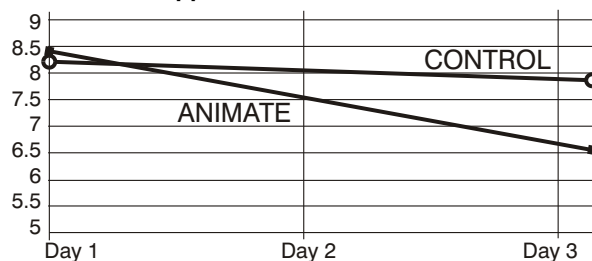
Far-off dry cows were housed in a tie stall facility. ANIMATE was mixed in the ration at a rate of 1 lb per head per day as suggested by the supplier. The diet fed to this group of cows was fed a total mixed ration (TMR) containing corn silage and grass haylage. Twelve animals were fed the same base ration ad libitum for two days. On Day 3, these same 12 cows were randomly assigned to one of two treatments. Six animals were fed the base ration while six animals were fed the base ration plus 1 lb of ANIMATE per head per day. These treatments were fed for three consecutive days. The amount of feed offered was recorded and the amount of feed refused was estimated for each treatment group. Feed offered and refused were sampled daily for dry matter determination. Dry matter intake was estimated two days before and three days after adding the product. Urine pH was measured for the three days ANIMATE diets were being fed. Urine was collected vulva stimulation and pH was determined using colorpHast indicator strips approximately four hours after feeding each day.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

There appeared to be no difference in dry matter intake with dairy cows receiving ANIMATE compared with the dairy cows receiving the control diet.

Urine pH is presented in Figure 1. By the third day of the treatment, urine pH for cows fed ANIMATE dropped dramatically overall when compared to the control cows.

Figure 1. Urine pH of Non-Lactating Dairy Cows Fed an ANIMATE Supplemented Ration vs. Control Ration



### CONCLUSION

Inclusion of ANIMATE in a TMR at 1 lb per head per day did not appear to inhibit dry matter intake of multiparous dry Holstein cows. In addition, the 1 lb inclusion rate of ANIMATE appeared to reduce urine pH. The results of this study indicate that ANIMATE may effectively control the cation-anion balance of a dairy ration without adversely affecting dry matter intake when fed at a rate of 1 lb per head per day.