

Transitioning from OptiGuard™ to Optimate™



Marie and Glen Todd have had a successful season calf-rearing with OptiGuard™. They are now trialling Optimate™ to assist in optimising the health of their dairy herd.

The Opti-product range of animal feed additives currently consist of two products aimed at dairy ruminants.

The first, OptiGuard™, launched this season has earned phenomenal reviews for both its ease of use and resulting scour-free healthy young livestock. The second, Optimate™, is a BPM zeolite product recommended for use in dry and lactating cows. It plays an important role in cow health, pasture health and as a tool to help you mitigate nitrogen leaching problems.

What is Optimate™?

Both OptiGuard™ and Optimate™ products are natural BPM zeolites derived from local TVZ deposits and differ in grading or “fineness”, with the finest grade (approx. 40 µm) to be used in calves (OptiGuard™) and a courser grade (approx. 120 µm) developed for use in adult dairy cows (Optimate™).

Why feed Optimate™?

Now that the super-busy calving season is slowly winding down, it is time to focus our attention more on mum! This is where Optimate™ comes into play, helping to prevent milk fever and ketosis, as well as aiding cow fertility.

Milk Fever

Milk fever or hypocalcaemia is an acute deficiency of calcium and it occurs normally around calving. This is because milk contains a lot of calcium and once the cow starts milking, suddenly from one day to the next, there is a huge drain of calcium from the body, via the milk. The body may not be able to cope with this and blood calcium levels will get dangerously low. This is where Optimate™ can help, as it binds calcium and therefore effectively lowers the available dietary calcium level. By feeding it during late lactation and during the dry period it can help to maintain a low-calcium diet.

The other way it can help with preventing milk fever is when dietary (i.e., pasture) potassium levels are high. Optimate™ is good at binding the excess potassium and thus lowering dietary potassium. How this prevents milk fever is complicated, but by binding potassium it lowers the Dietary Cation-Anion Balance (DCAB). For further reading check our website for references.

Ketosis

Ketosis is another common metabolic disorder in early lactation. It takes the cow at least 8-12 weeks to maximize her DMI, which means that during the early stages of lactation she spends more energy than she takes in. Overseas research, supplementing cows throughout the year with zeolites, significantly reduced the incidence of ketosis.

Fertility

Spring is the time you will be working to get the cows in calf again. Pastures are often very high in nitrogen, which can lead to excessive levels of ammonium in the rumen. High ammonia and urea levels in the blood of cows has been linked to fertility problems and may also contribute to embryo loss in lactating cows. BPM zeolites can help manage high levels of ammonium and also help to lower blood urea levels. Including Optimate™ into the diet of lactating cows to help manage getting and keeping cows in calf, makes good sense.

Where can I get Optimate™?

Optimate™ is available in 25kg bags. Call Kelvin on **0800 678 444**.
www.BPMNZ.co.nz

Call us on **0800 678 444** www.Facebook.com/OptimateNZ



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Optimising the health and milk production of dairy goats in NZ

The use of BPM natural zeolites (OptiGuard™ and Optimate™ products) in farm animal nutrition is increasing, mainly with the aim of improving performance and protecting against mycotoxin intoxication.

BPM Zeolites have unique properties such as the ability to lose and gain water reversibly, to adsorb molecules of a certain diameter (adsorption property) or act as molecular sieves, and to exchange their constituent cations without major change of their structure (ion-exchange property). These properties make BPM zeolites useful in animal nutrition.

In experiments using clinoptilolite supplementation in goat feed at

2.5%, results showed improved milk fat percentage in dairy goats, without adverse effects on the serum variables evaluated.

Feeding Optimate™ to goats also reduces urinary nitrogen, acts as a rumen buffer, may assist with coccidial issues and helps prevent ketosis and other health issues that can be associated with dairy goats. Optimate is BioGro certified as a natural mineral input for organics.



Application

Simply add Optimate to your livestock meal-mix, or place it directly into feed troughs to allow goats to self-manage their intake. Addition rates from 10gm per goat per day.

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Your on-farm requirement.
Enjoy healthy stock,
better pasture,
clean waterways.



- * Enhances the nutritional value of stock feed
- * Cuts nitrogen and phosphorus losses into the environment
- * Helps prevent milk fever, ketosis & other ailments
- * Aids cow fertility
- * Acts as a rumen buffer
- * Decreases blood and milk urea levels



Optimate™
the natural stockfeed optimiser



No: 2846

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