

Abstract

Functional feedstuff for improved rumen fermentation

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Forage digestibility continues to limit the intake of available energy by ruminants and correspondingly, contributes to excessive manure excretion by livestock. In order to increase the intake of available energy from feed, a functional feed material for improved rumen fermentation has been developed. Its performance was tested in several dairy feed trials; two of them were introduced in the manuscript and presentation.

The application of a functional feedstuff for ruminants (MAXFIBER) showed various beneficial effects on rumen fermentation in several trials. It was proven that an increased digestibility in NDF- and ADF-carbohydrates as well as in organic matter resulted in an improved energetic metabolism of dairy cows. This additional energy was mostly used for the milk production, as documented by an increased milk yield. Moreover, milk performance was also improved qualitatively being reflected in a changed fatty acid pattern in milk. Overall, the efficacy of MAXFIBER with regard to positively influencing rumen fermentation and promoting the breakdown of structural carbohydrates was demonstrated.

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