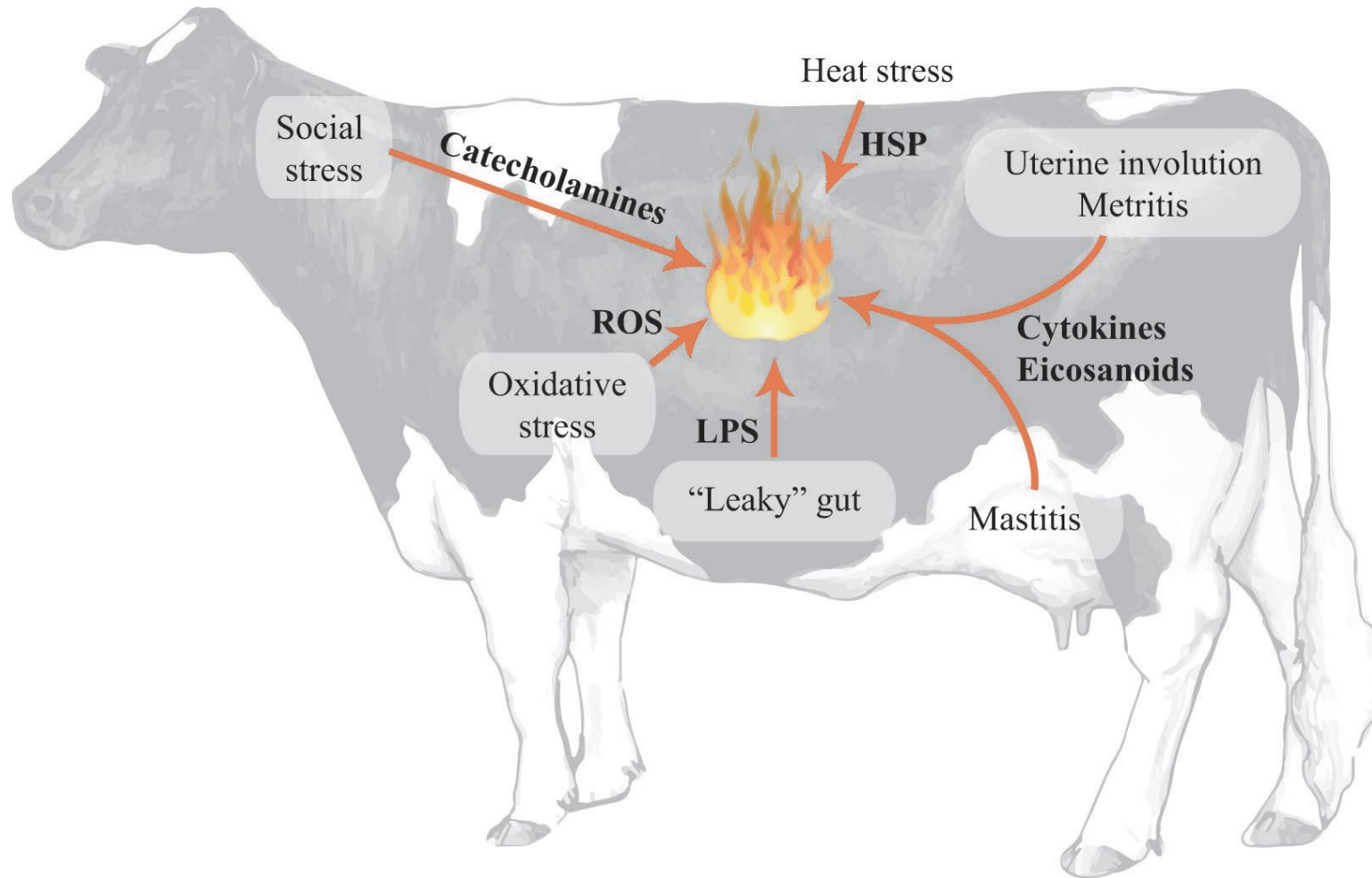


Beyond the rumen: Targeting the hindgut to improve health and performance

Victoria Sanz Fernández, DVM PhD
Ruminant Research Center, Trouw Nutrition R&D

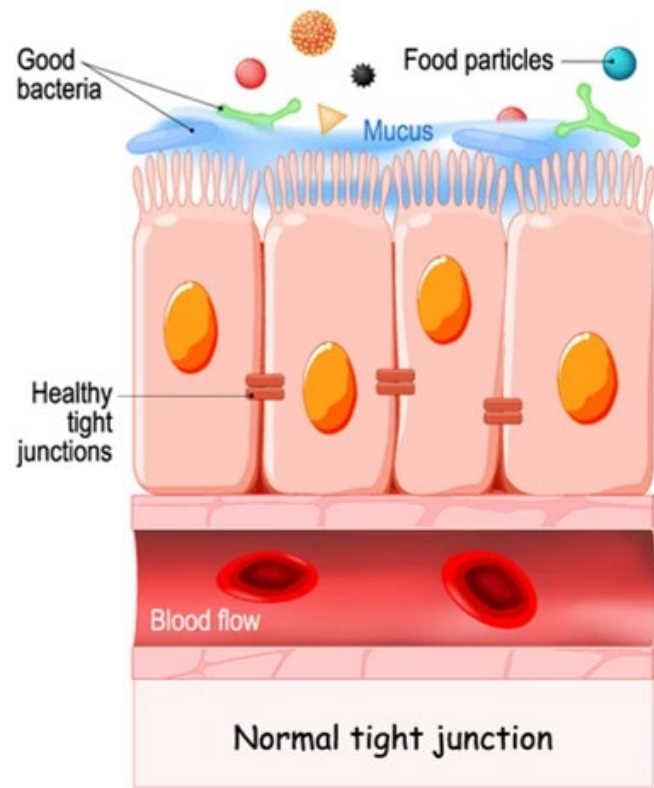
victoria.sanz-fernandez@trouwnutrition.com

Leaky gut as a source of inflammation

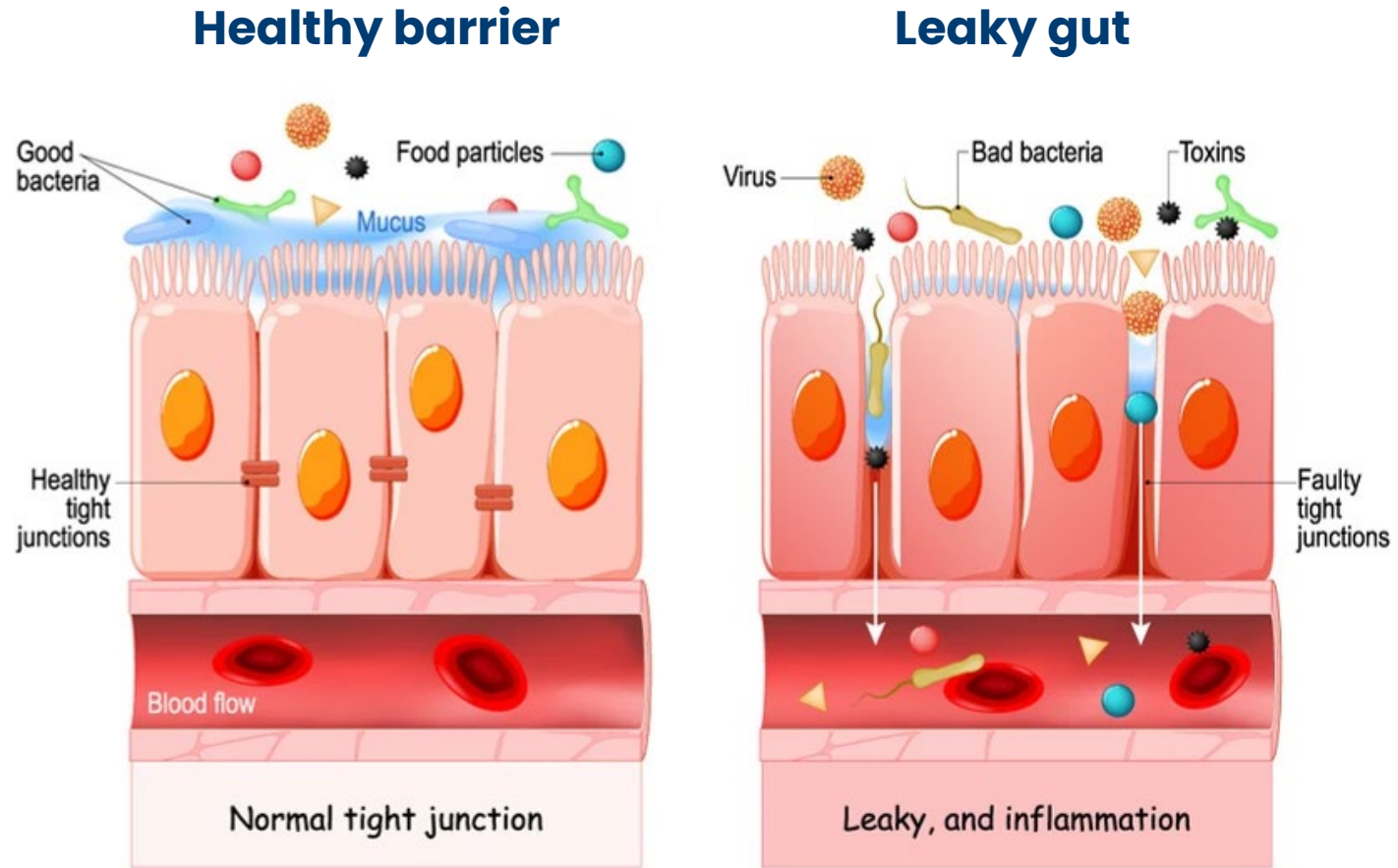


Intestinal health & inflammation

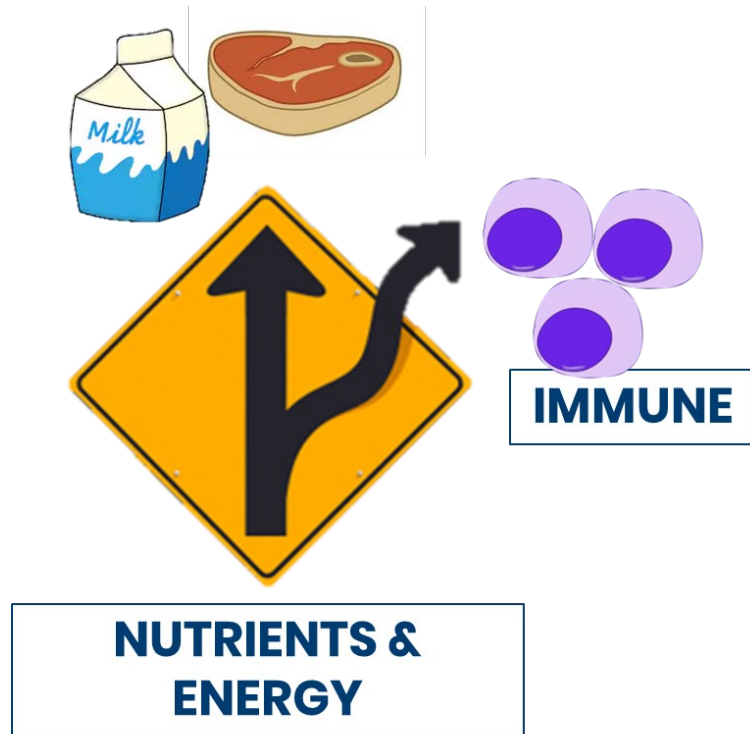
Healthy barrier



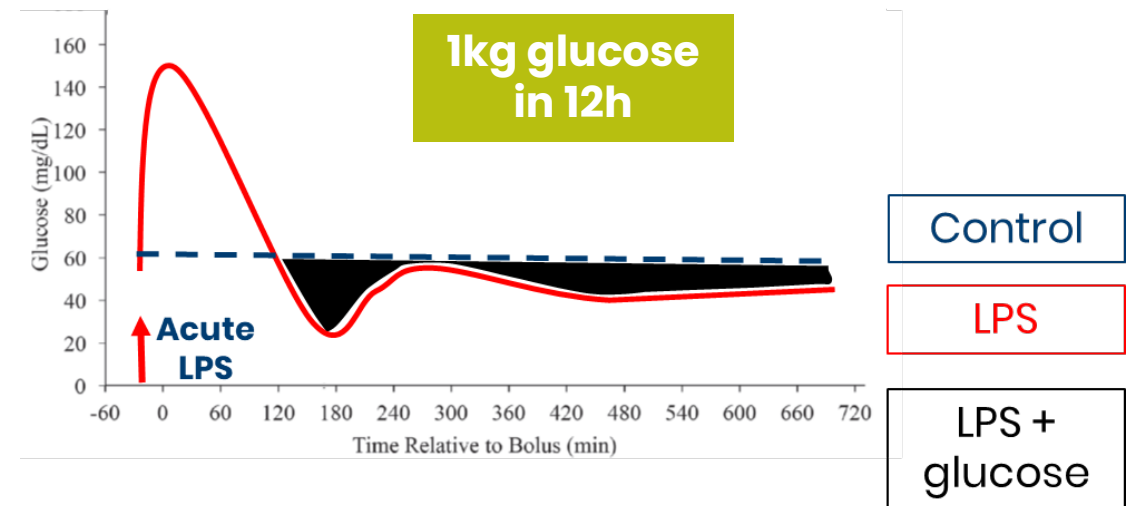
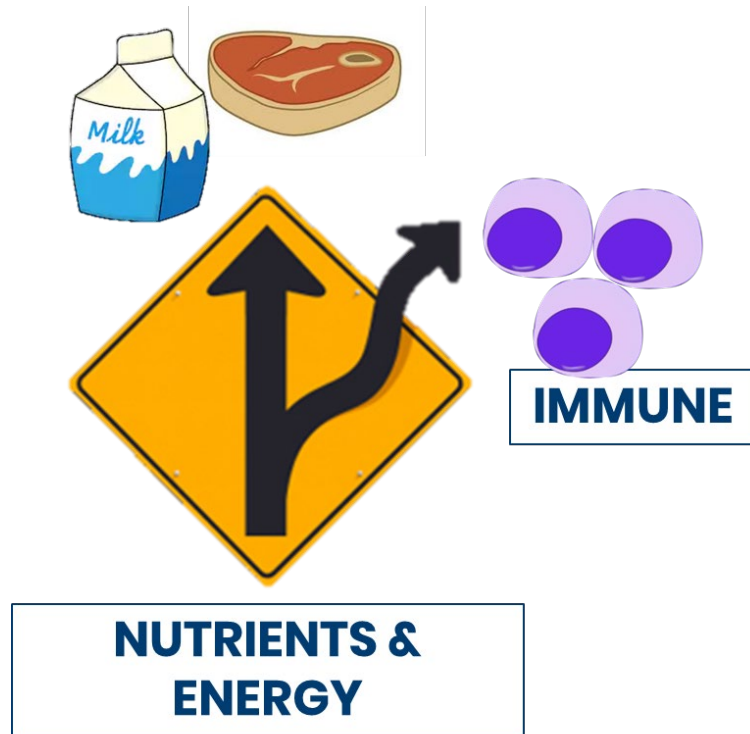
Intestinal health & inflammation



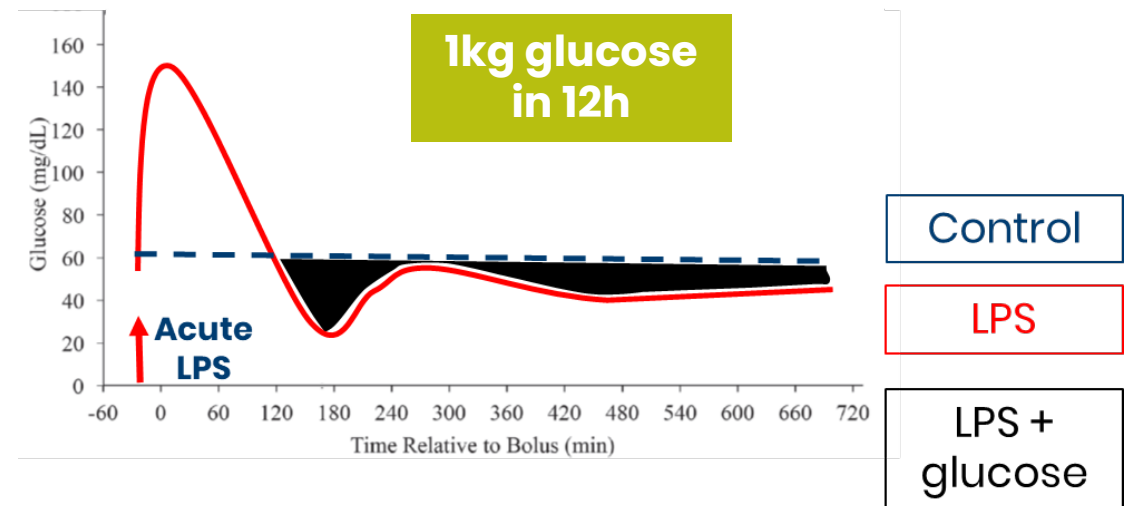
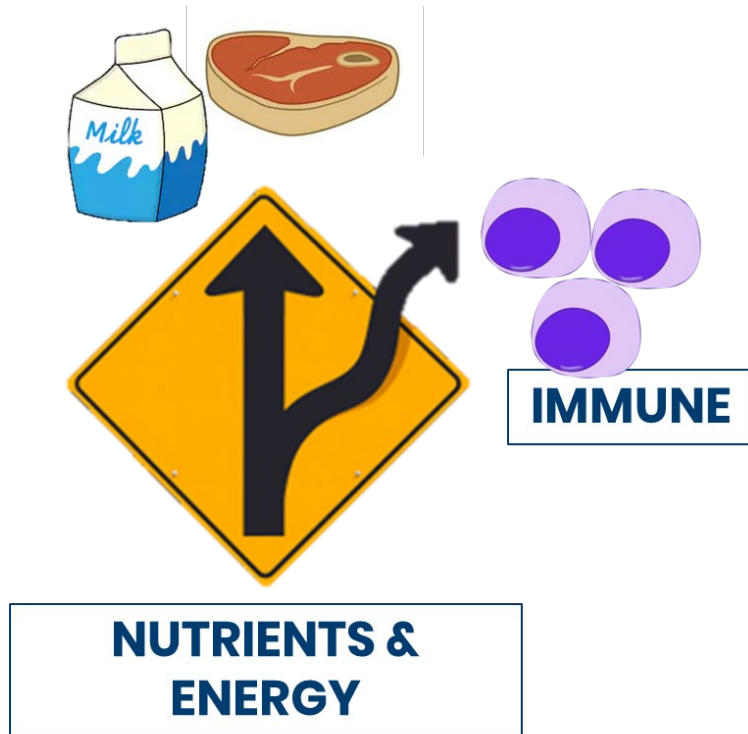
Cost of inflammation



Cost of inflammation

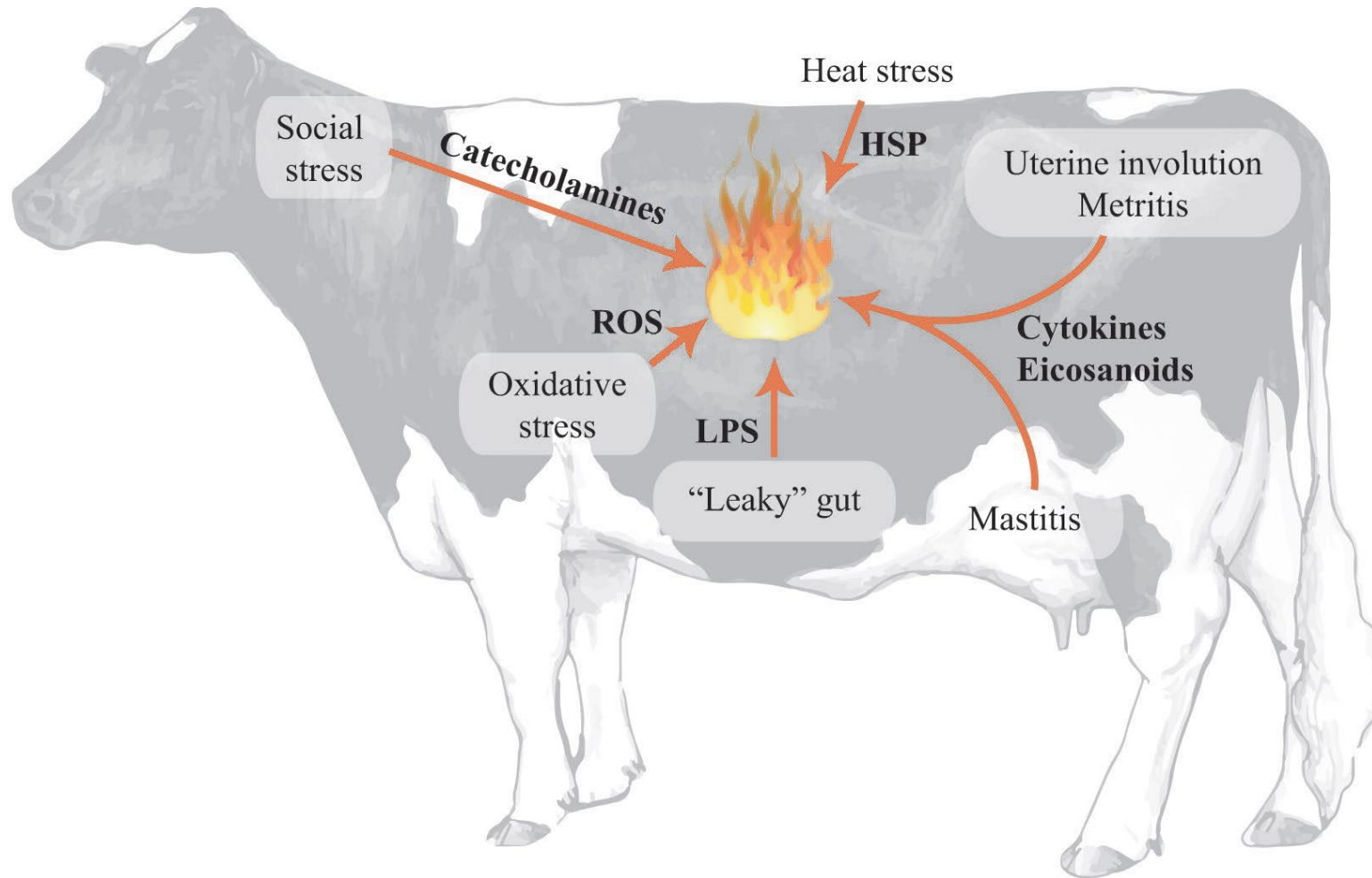


Cost of inflammation

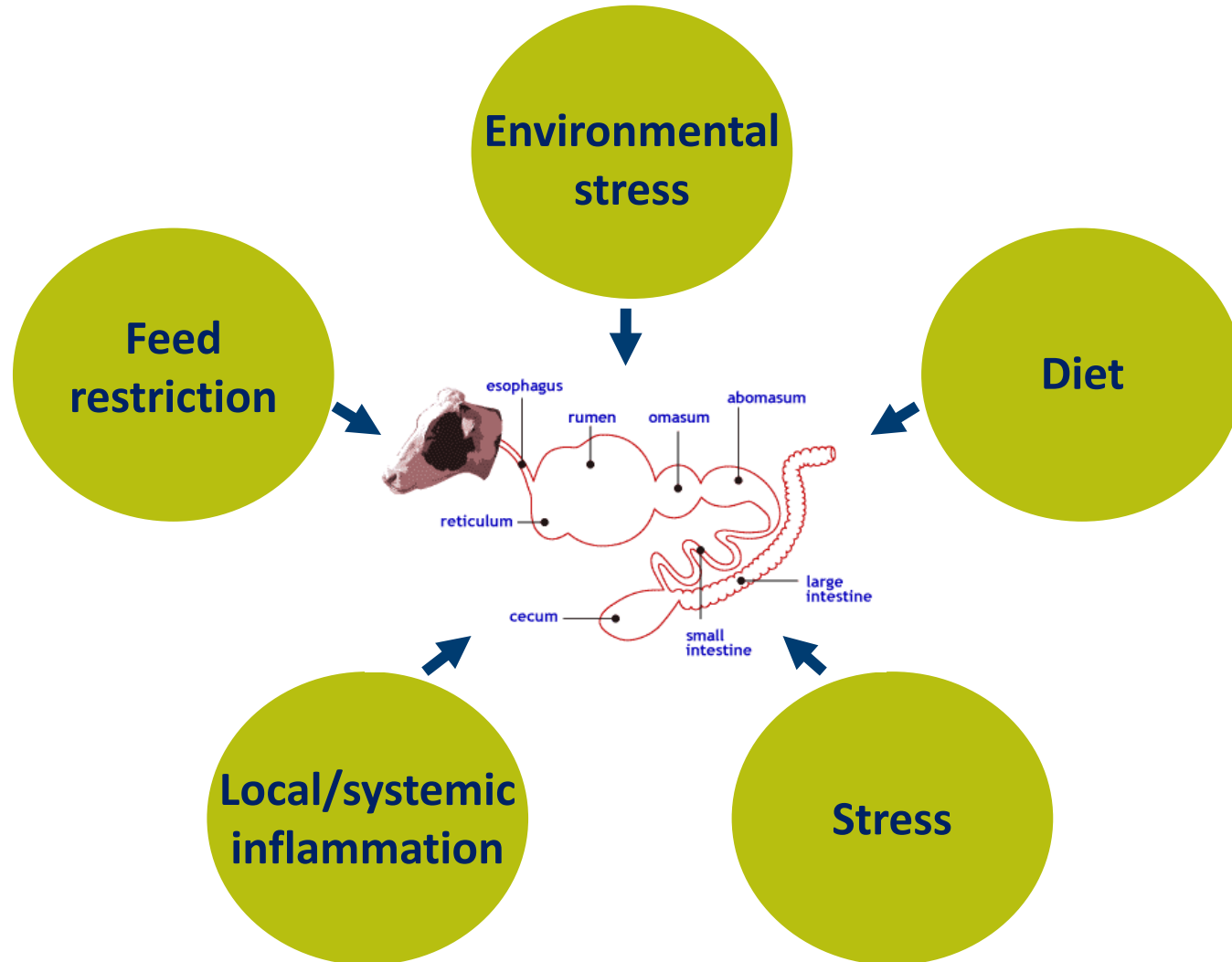


40kg milk = 3kg glucose

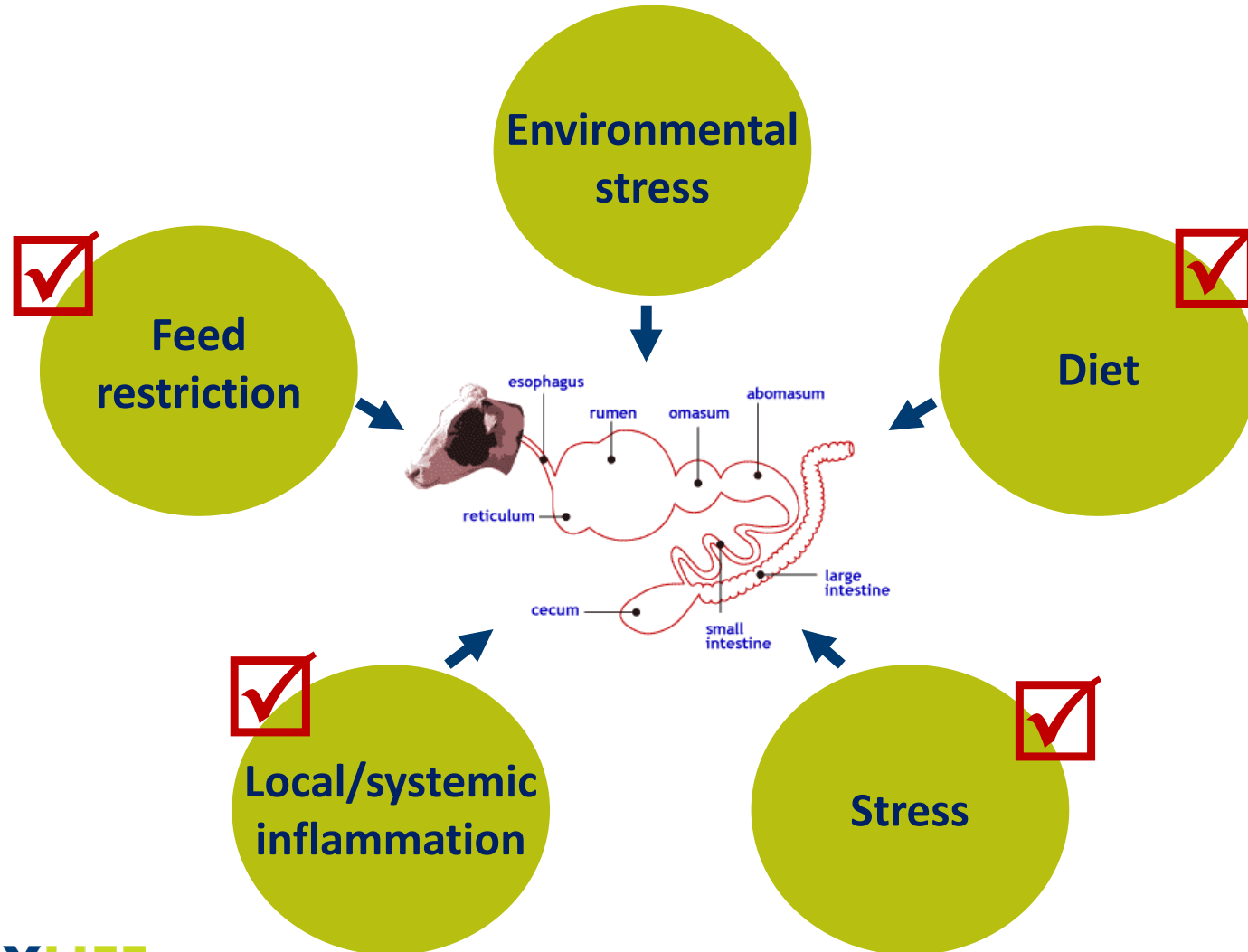
Leaky gut as a source of inflammation



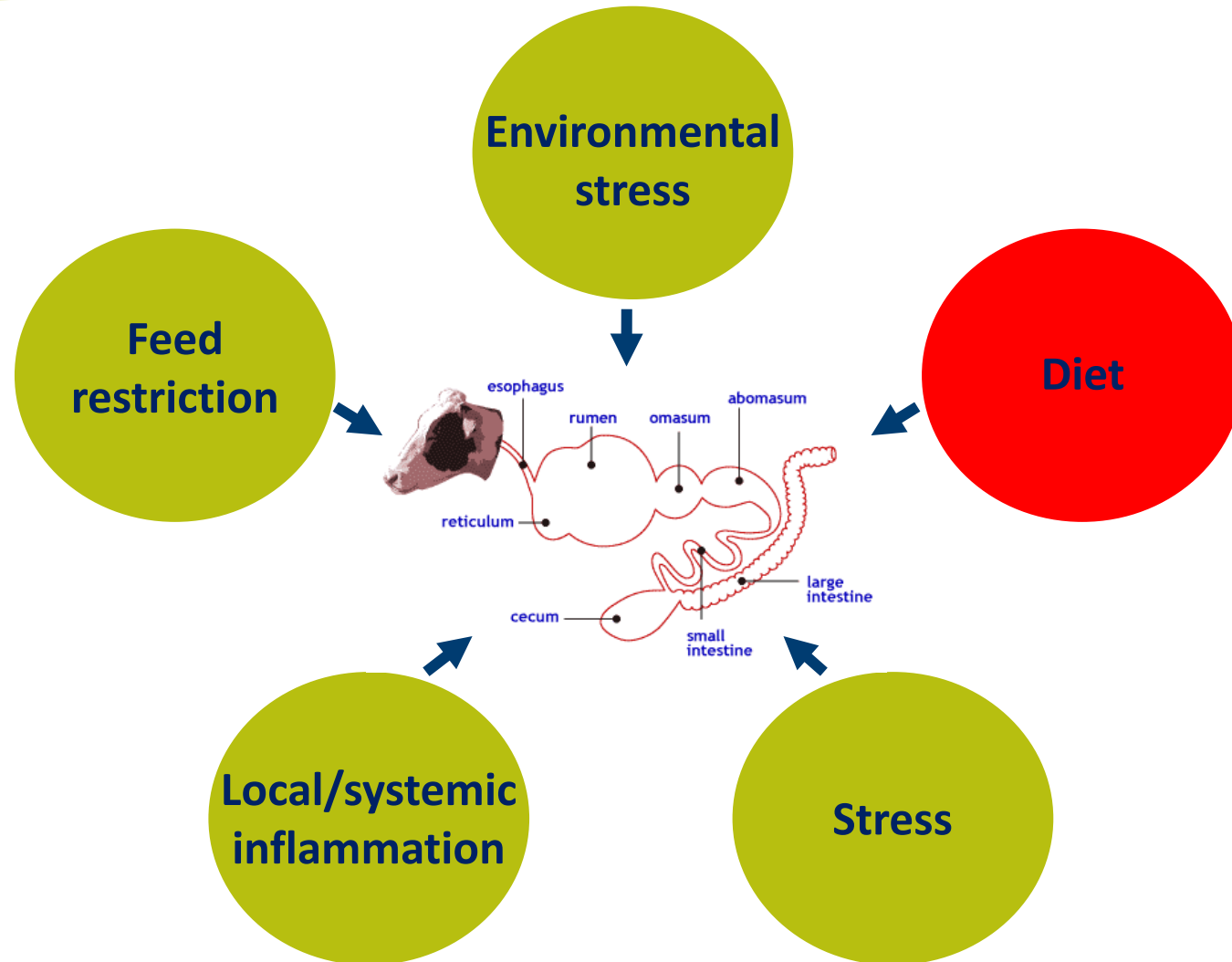
Factors affecting intestinal health



Factors affecting intestinal health



Factors affecting intestinal health

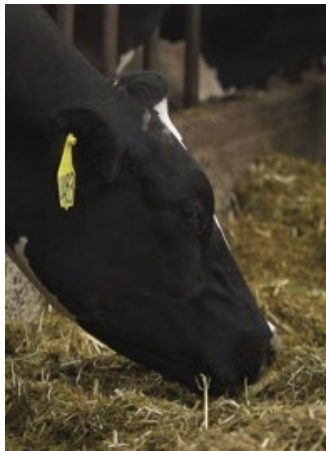


High grain diet

- Abrupt introduction
- High fermentability
 - > ↓ pH
- Microbial proliferation/lysis
 - > ↑ endotoxin

Rumen acidosis

↑↑ **Grain**
(↑↑ **starch**)



Rumen

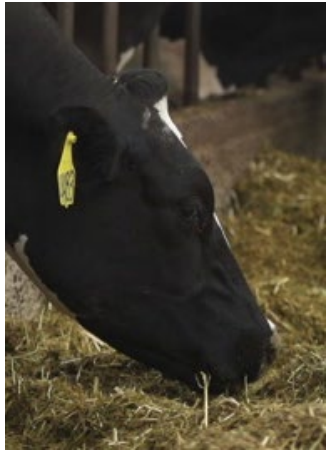
- ↑↑ **Starch:**
- ↑ fermentation
 - ↓ pH
 - ↑ microbial prolif./lysis
 - ↑ endotoxins/LPS



**ACIDOSIS
LEAKY GUT**

Rumen acidosis

↑↑ Grain
(↑↑ starch)



Rumen

- ↑↑ **Starch:**
- ↑ fermentation
 - ↓ pH
 - ↑ microbial prolif./lysis
 - ↑ endotoxins/LPS

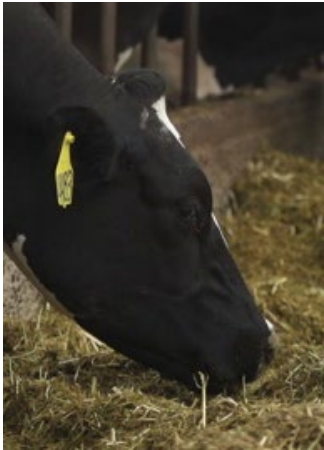
Small
intestine

↑↑ Bypass
starch

**ACIDOSIS
LEAKY GUT**

Rumen acidosis

↑↑ Grain
(↑↑ starch)



Rumen

↑↑ **Starch:**

- ↑ fermentation
- ↓ pH
- ↑ microbial prolif./lysis
- ↑ endotoxins/LPS



**ACIDOSIS
LEAKY GUT**

**Small
intestine**

↑↑ Bypass
starch

Hindgut

↑↑ **Starch:**

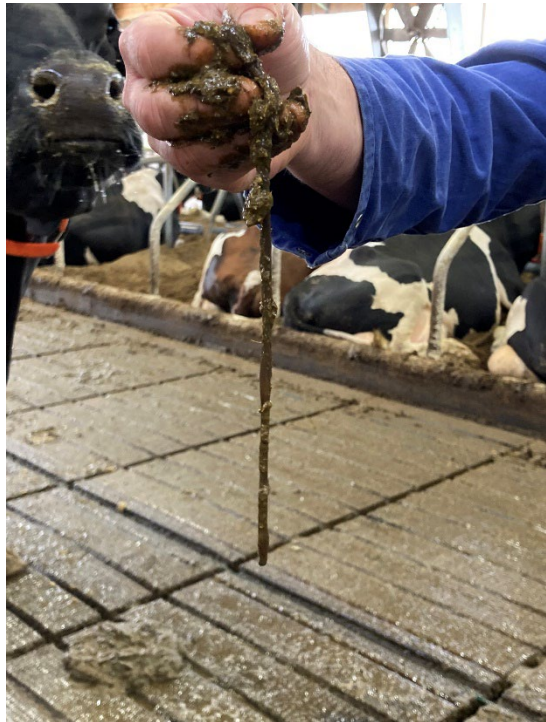
- ↑ fermentation
- ↓ pH
- ↑ microbial prolif./lysis
- ↑ endotoxins/LPS



**ACIDOSIS
LEAKY GUT**

On farm: rumen acidosis = hindgut acidosis

Mucin casts



Frothy feces



Fresh blood

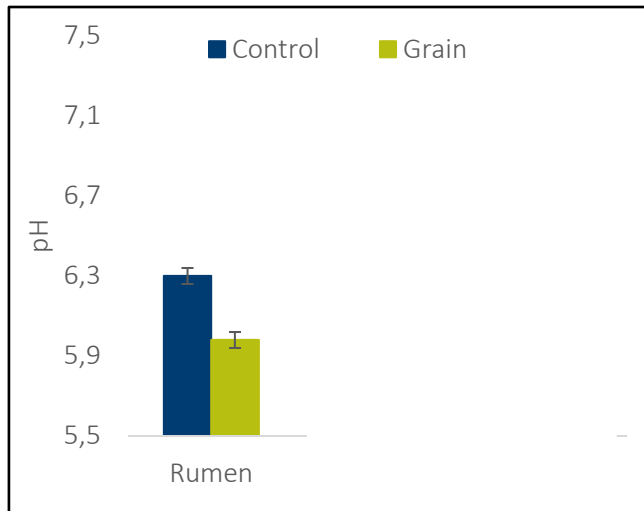


High grain diets and acidosis along the GI tract

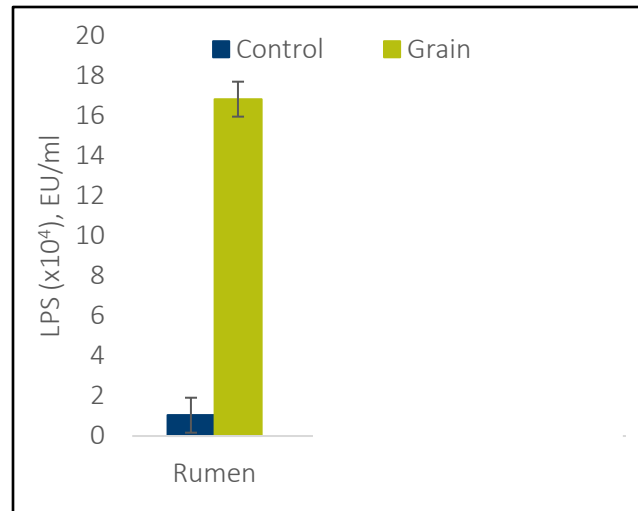
Treatments:

1. Control (\uparrow NDF, \downarrow starch): 70% forage, 30% supplement
2. SARA (\downarrow NDF, \uparrow starch): 36% forage, 30% wheat:barley pellet, 34% supplement

\downarrow pH



\uparrow LPS

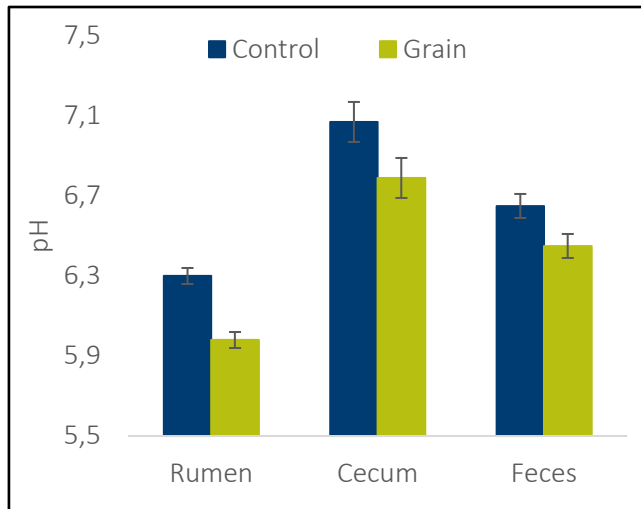


High grain diets and acidosis along the GI tract

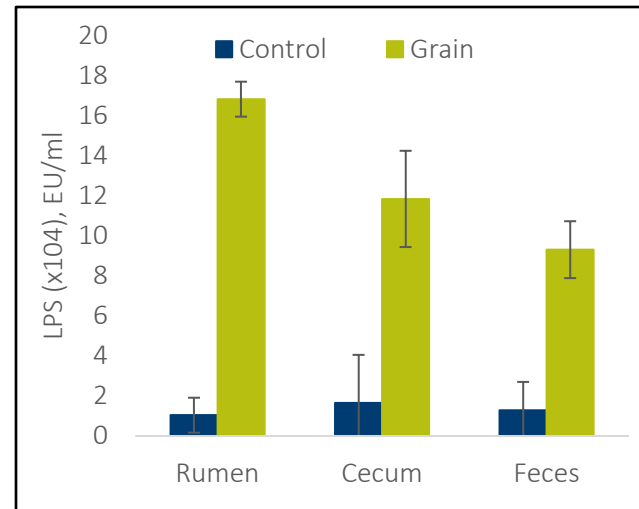
Treatments:

1. Control (\uparrow NDF, \downarrow starch): 70% forage, 30% supplement
2. SARA (\downarrow NDF, \uparrow starch): 36% forage, 30% wheat:barley pellet, 34% supplement

\downarrow pH



\uparrow LPS

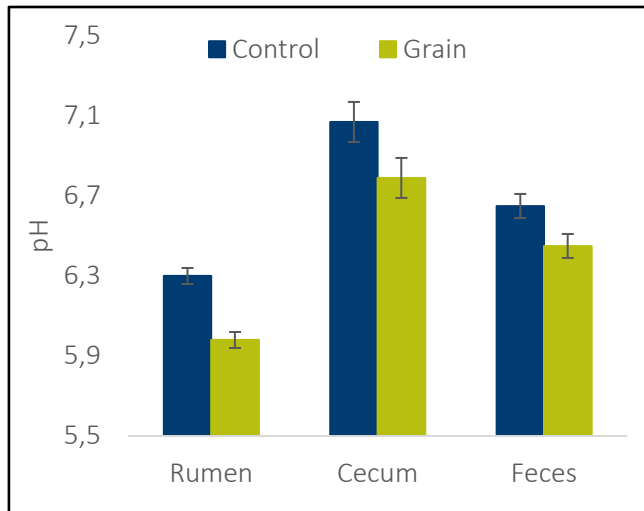


High grain diets and acidosis along the GI tract

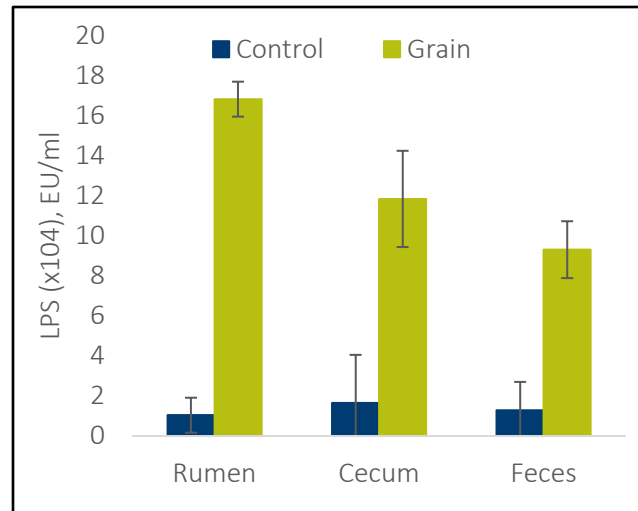
Treatments:

1. Control: 70% forage, 30% supplement
2. Subacute ruminal acidosis: 36% forage, 30% wheat:barley pellet, 34%, supplement

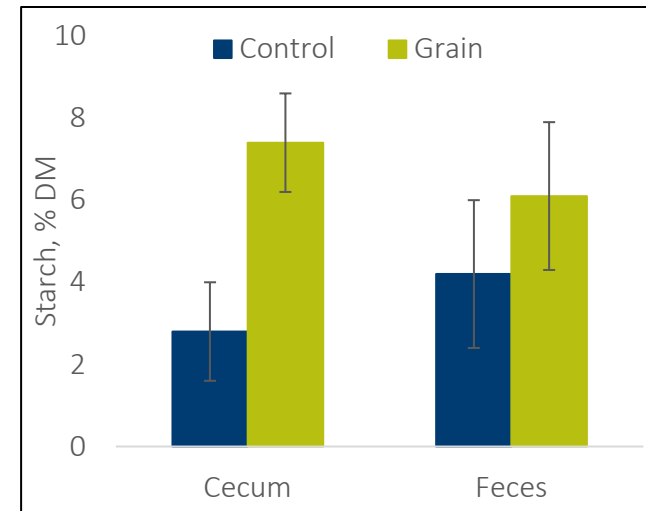
↓ pH



↑ LPS

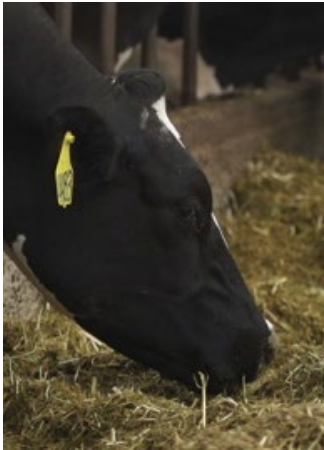


↑ Starch



Rumen acidosis

↑↑ Grain
(↑↑ starch)



Rumen

↑↑ **Starch:**

- ↑ fermentation
- ↓ pH
- ↑ microbial prolif./lysis
- ↑ endotoxins/LPS



**ACIDOSIS
LEAKY GUT**

Small
intestine

↑↑ Bypass
starch

Hindgut

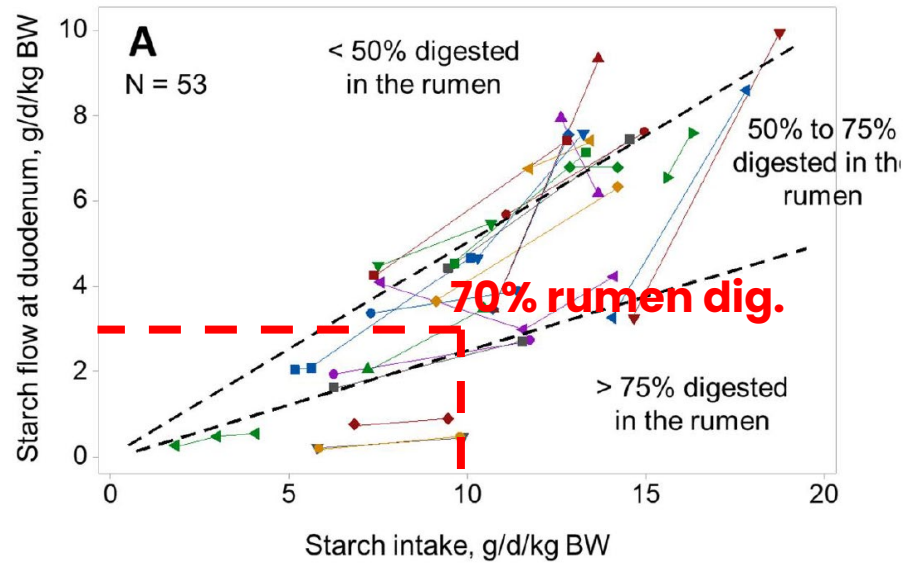
↑↑ **Starch:**

- ↑ fermentation
- ↓ pH
- ↑ microbial prolif./lysis
- ↑ endotoxins/LPS

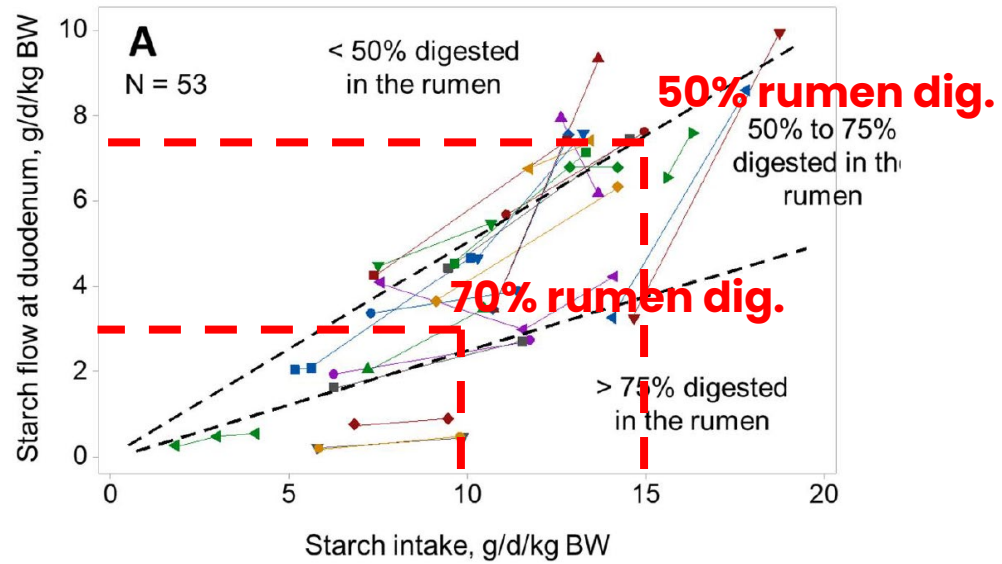


**ACIDOSIS
LEAKY GUT**

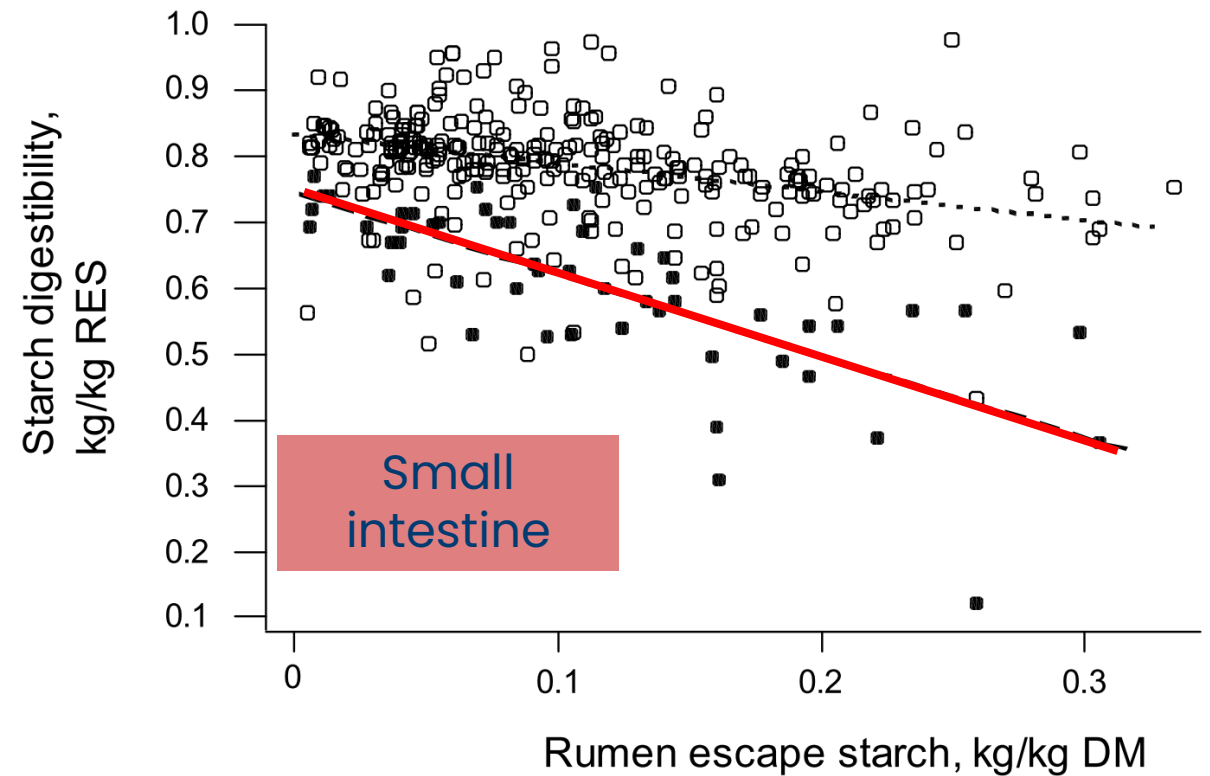
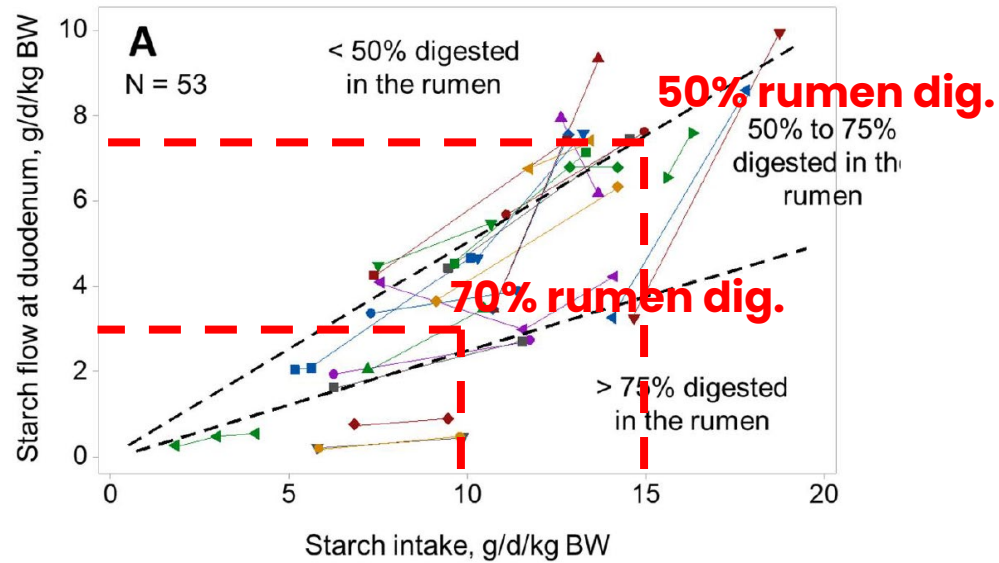
Postruminal starch digestion



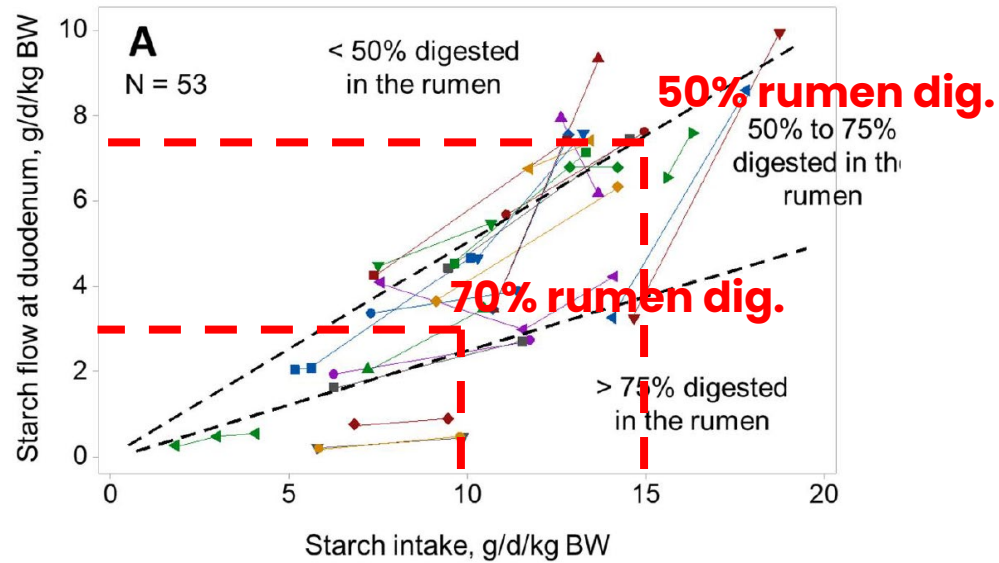
Postruminal starch digestion



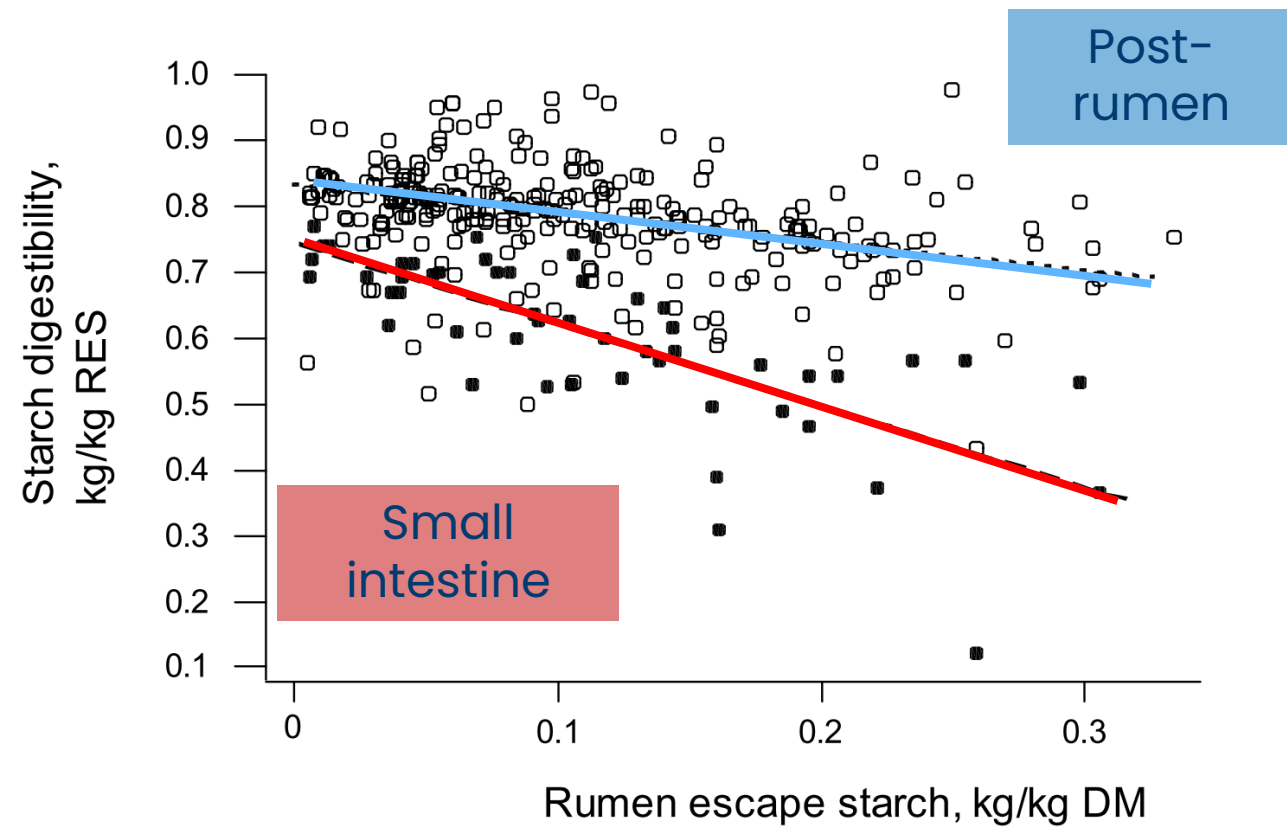
Postruminal starch digestion



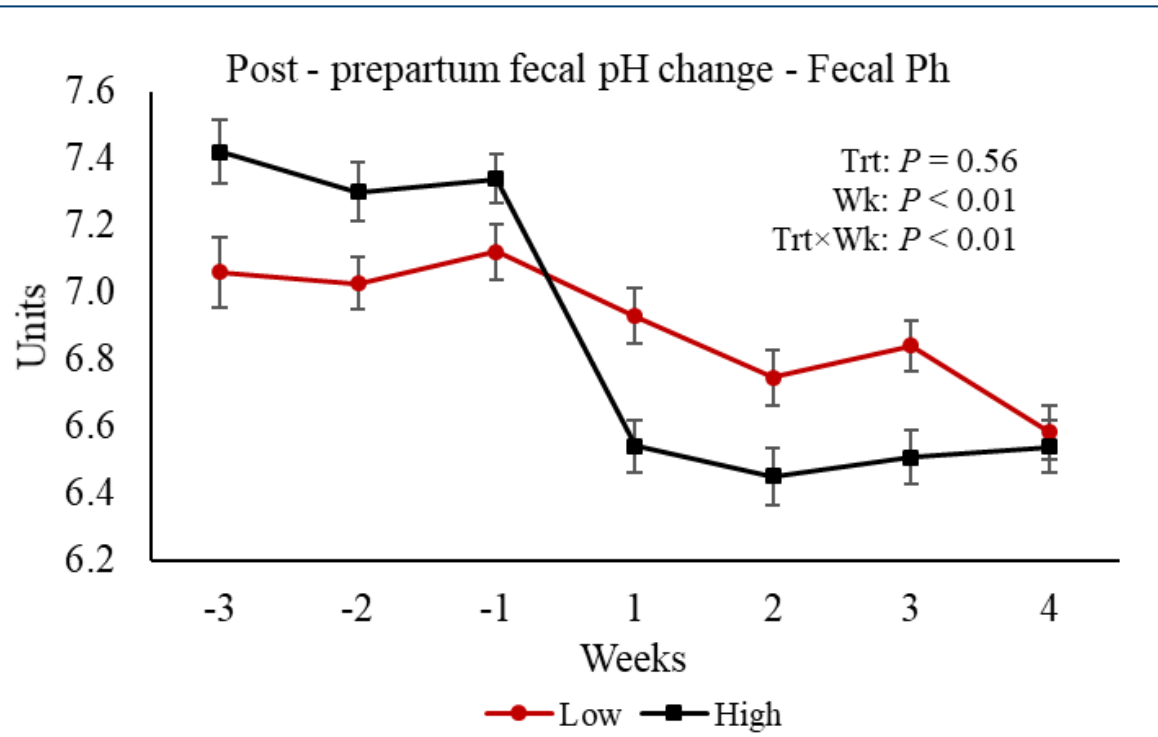
Postruminal starch digestion



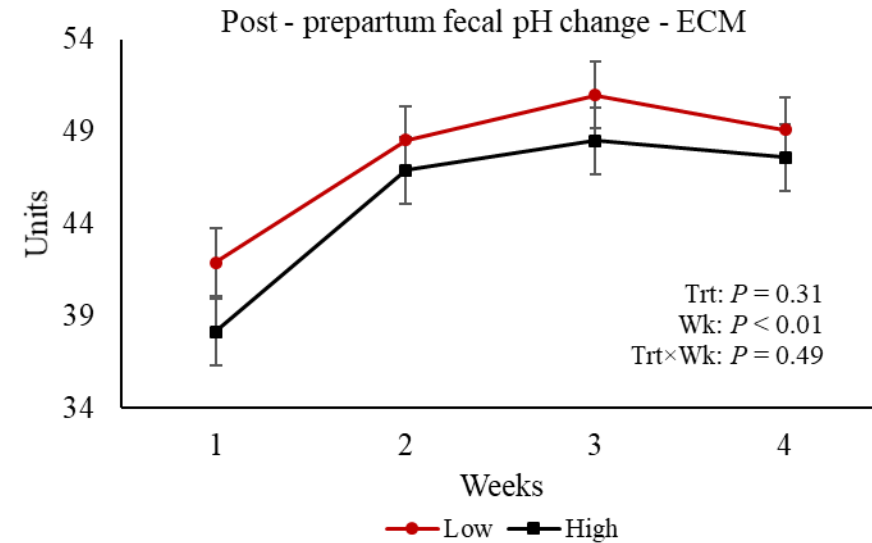
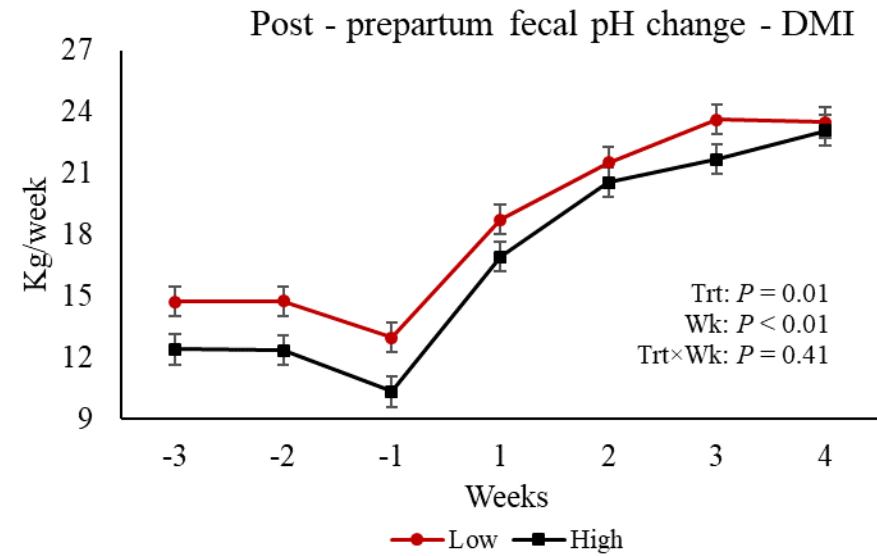
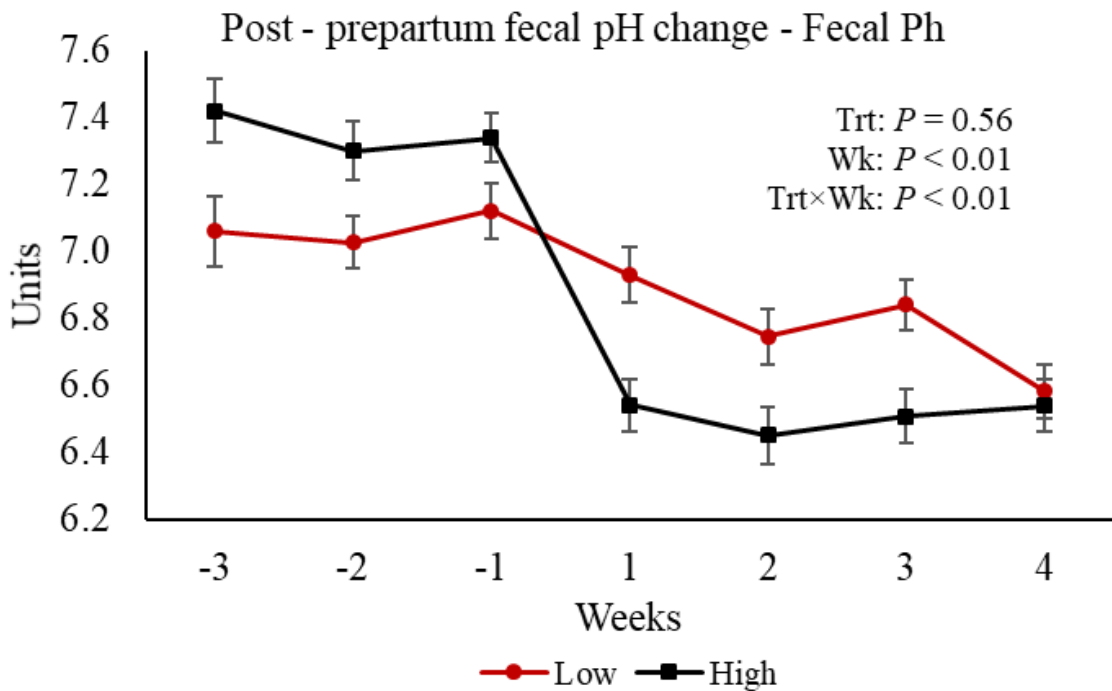
Compensatory role of the hindgut



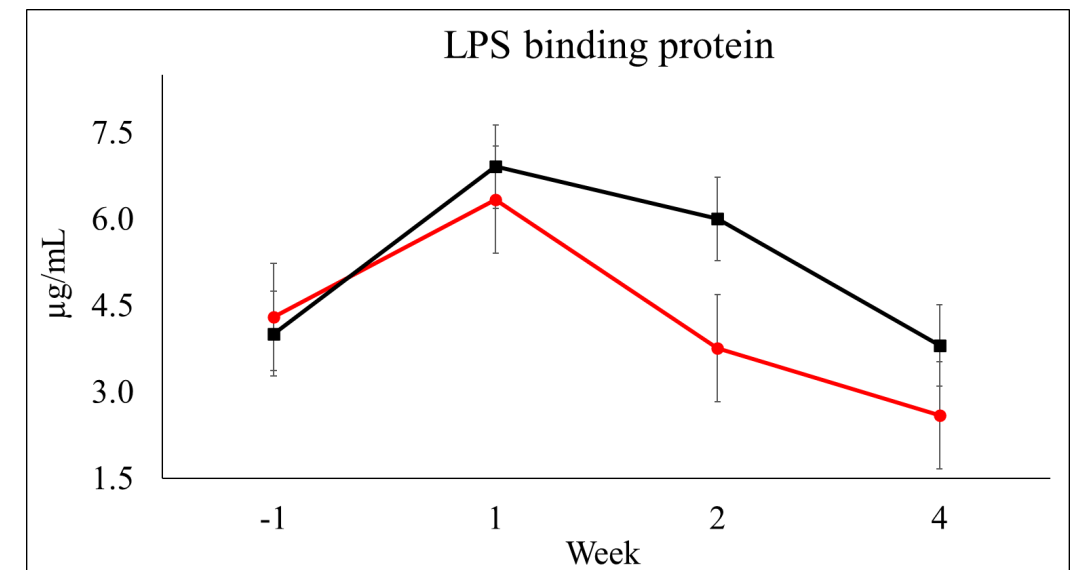
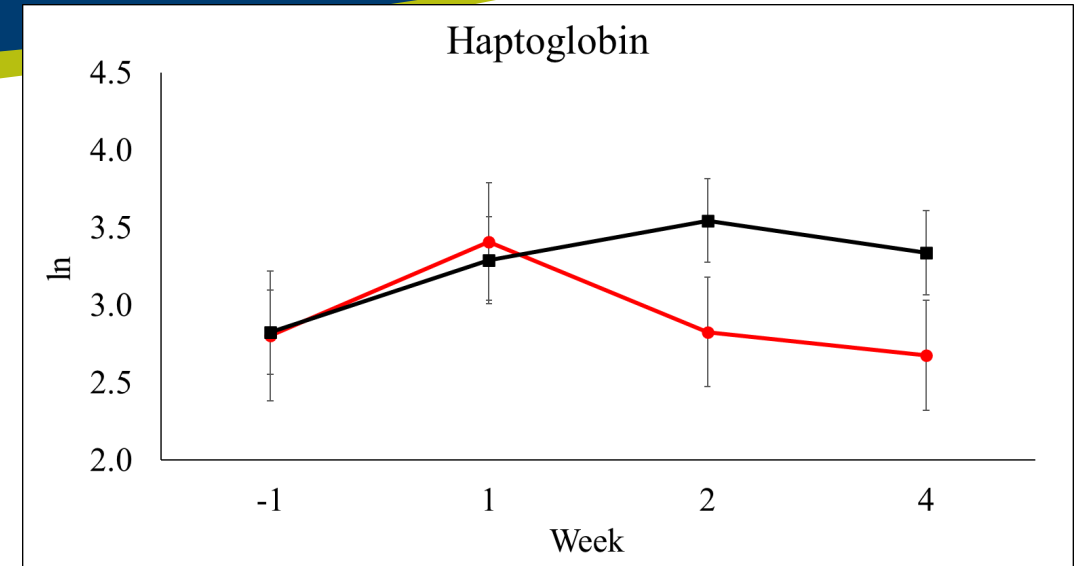
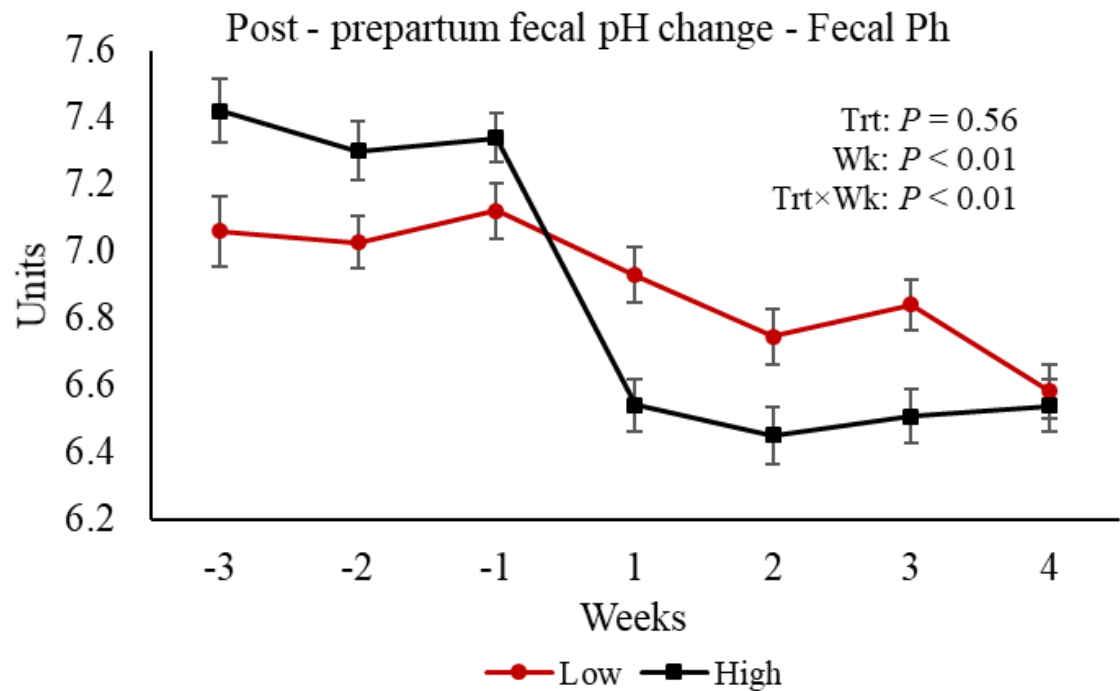
Change in fecal pH around calving



Change in fecal pH around calving



Change in fecal pH around calving



Hindgut acidosis and leaky gut



Treatments (n=4):

1. Control:

Abomasal saline

2. Hindgut acidosis:

Abomasal cornstarch



Hindgut acidosis and leaky gut



Treatments (n=4):

1. Control:

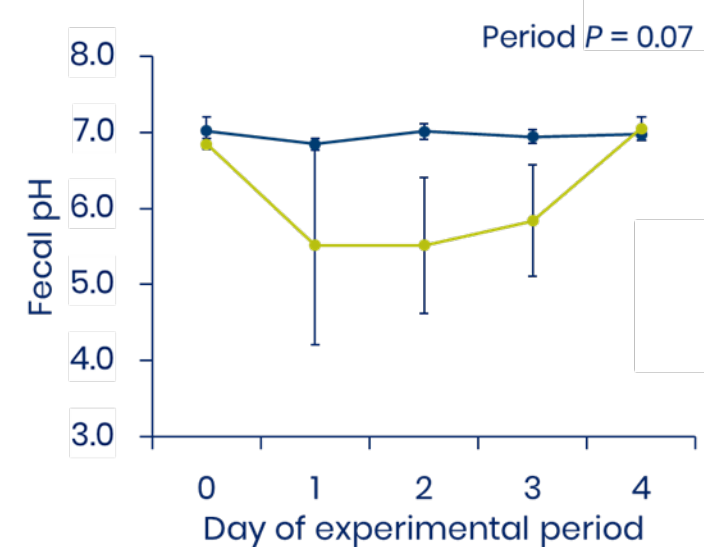
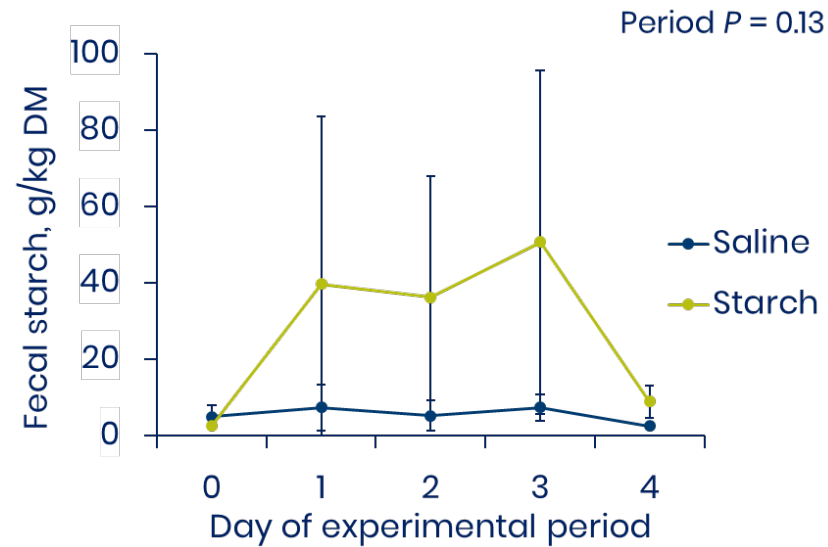
Abomasal saline

2. Hindgut acidosis:

Abomasal cornstarch



Period 1					Washout			Period 2				
D0	D1	D2	D3	D4	D1	D2	D3	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4

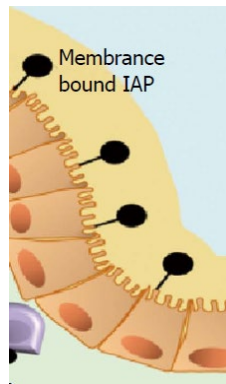
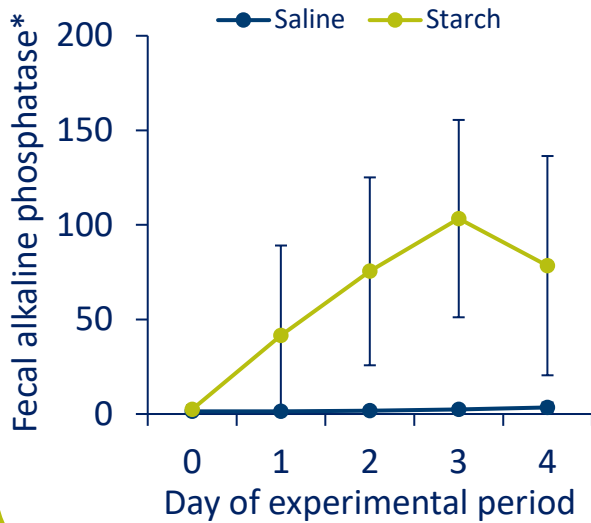


Hindgut acidosis and leaky gut



Period 1					Washout			Period 2				
D0	D1	D2	D3	D4	D1	D2	D3	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4

Intestinal damage



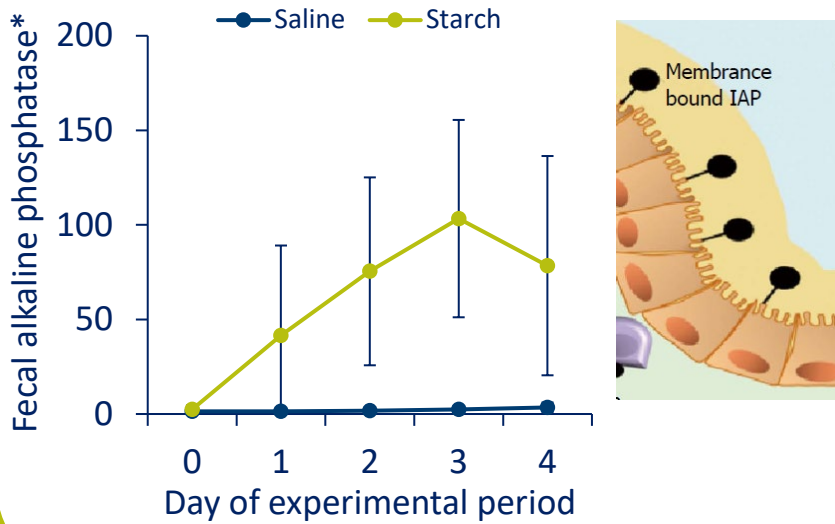
*activity, mOD 405nm/min

Hindgut acidosis and leaky gut



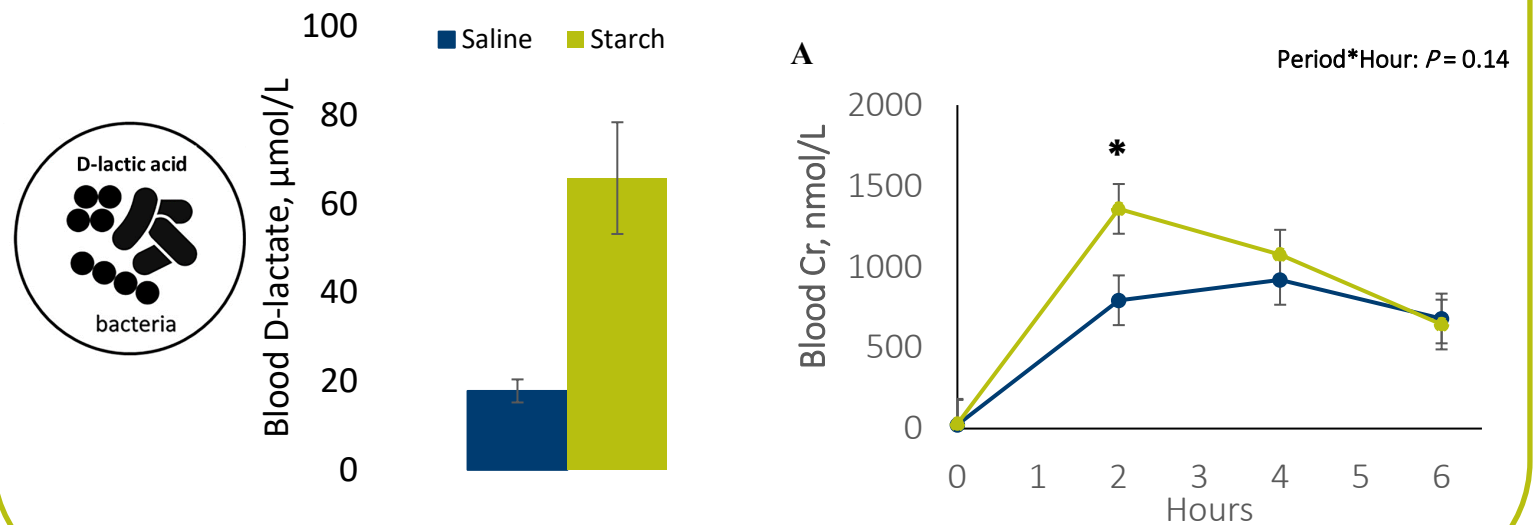
Period 1					Washout			Period 2				
D0	D1	D2	D3	D4	D1	D2	D3	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4

Intestinal damage



*activity, mOD 405nm/min

Increased intestinal permeability



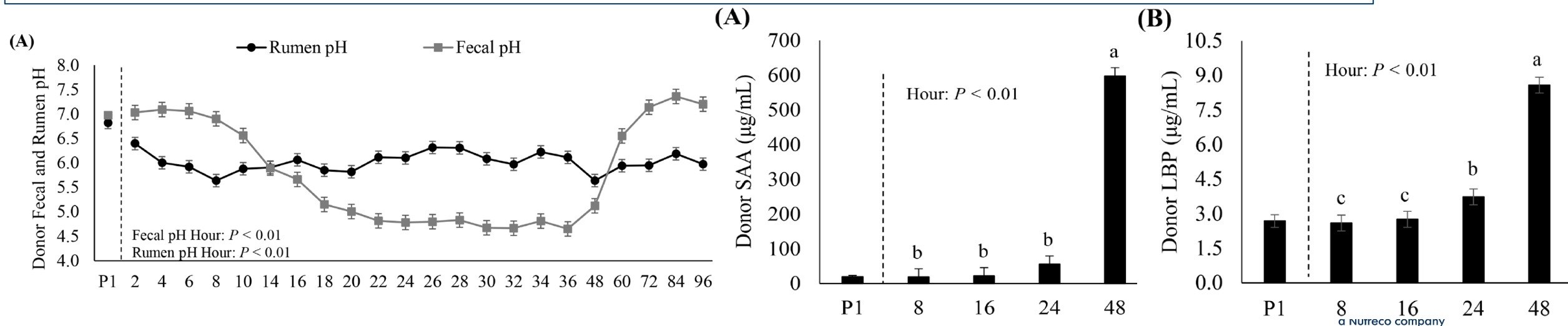
Does hindgut acidosis trigger systemic inflammation?

- Experimentally inducing SARA (with a high grain diet) results in systemic inflammation
(e.g., Gozho et al., 2005 & 2007; Khafipour et al., 2009; Li et al., 2012; Abeyta et al. 2023)
- Postruminal infusion of starch fails to induce systemic inflammation.
(e.g., Sanz-Fernandez et al., unpublished; Abeyta et al. 2023a,b,c; van Gastelen et al. 2021a,b)

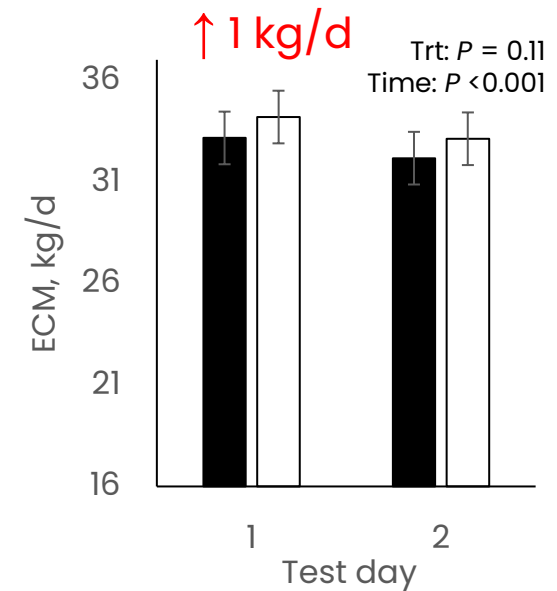
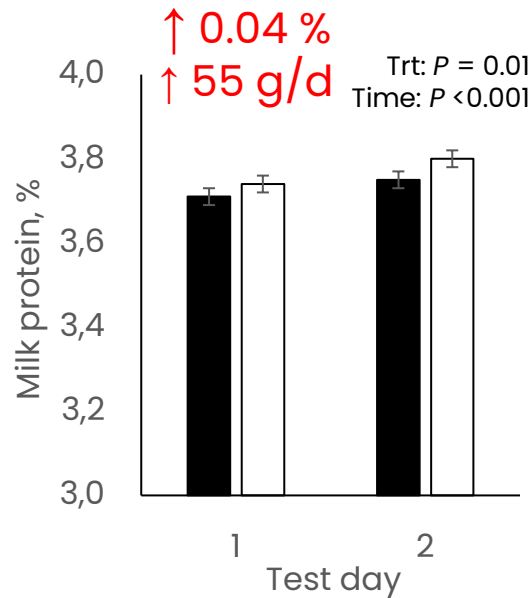
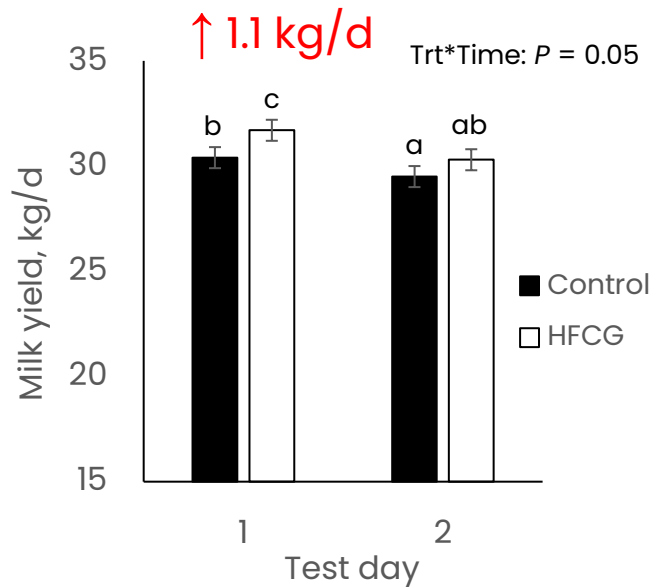
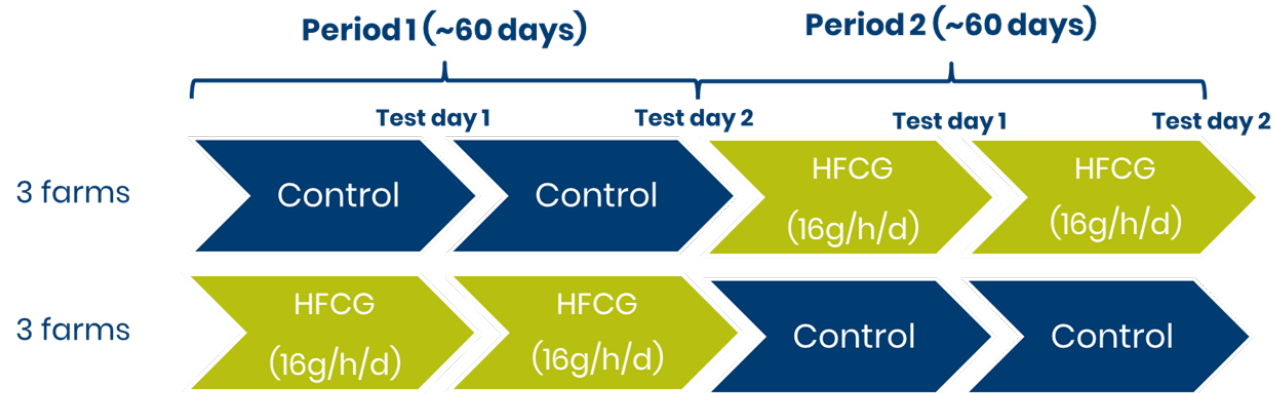
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SARA inductions: 2.75% BW ground corn after 16 h of 75% feed restriction (Abeyta et al., 2023)



Postrumen prebiotic improves milk performance in dairy



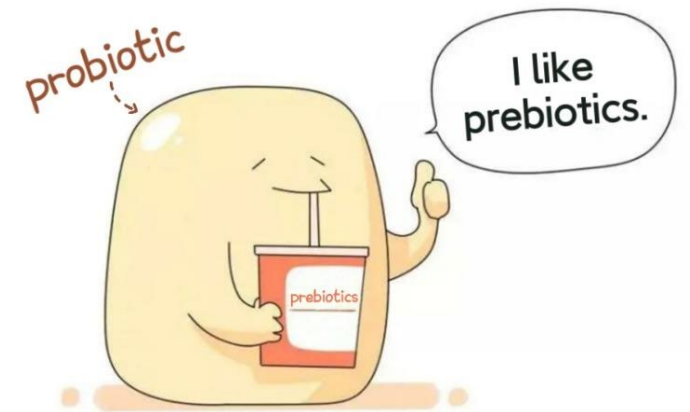
A photograph of a cow in a barn, overlaid with a semi-transparent green filter. The cow is the central focus, looking towards the camera. The background shows other cows and barn structures, all rendered in shades of green and blue.

Targeting the hindgut

(Postrumen) prebiotics

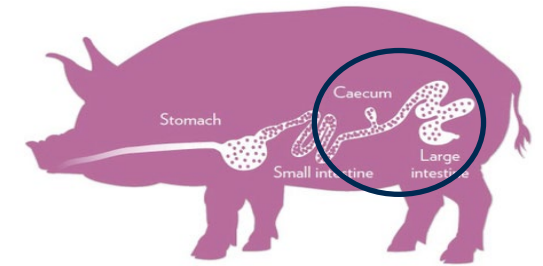
“Prebiotics are nondigestible food ingredients that beneficially affect host health by selectively stimulating the growth and/or activity of bacteria in the gastrointestinal tract”

- Prebiotics are particularly well suited for postruminal applications

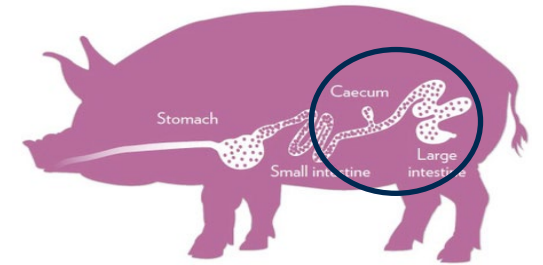


Gluconic acid and its salts

- In swine, gluconate improves performance and VFA production.



Gluconic acid and its salts



- In swine, gluconate improves performance and VFA production.

Lactic acid bacteria (LAB)

Bifidobacterium pseudocatenulatum

Bifidobacterium catenulatum

Bifidobacterium dentium

Lactobacillus reuteri

Lactobacillus mucosae

Mitsuokella multiacida

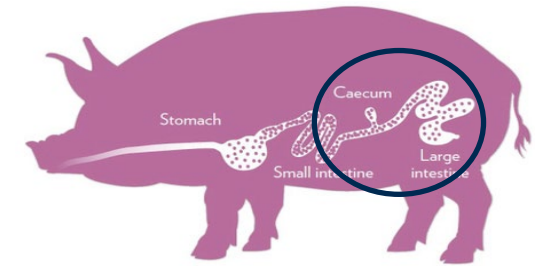


Acid-utilizing bacteria

Megasphaera elsdenii

Faecalibacterium prausnitzii

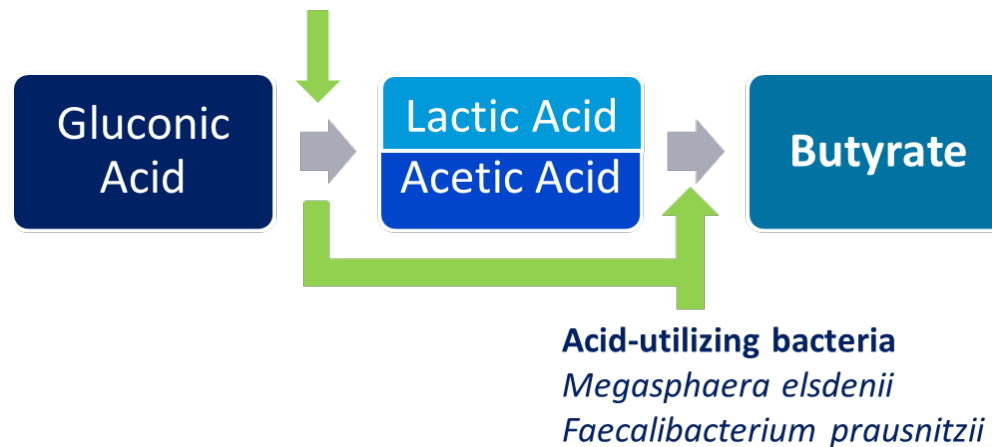
Gluconic acid and its salts



- In swine, gluconate improves performance and VFA production.

Lactic acid bacteria (LAB)

Bifidobacterium pseudocatenulatum
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Bifidobacterium dentium
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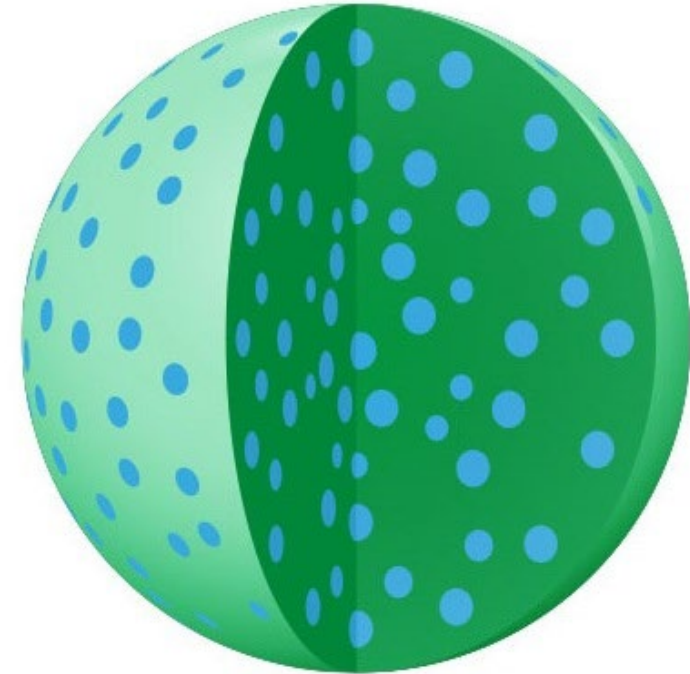
- Metabolic substrate and signaling molecules
 - Main energy source for colonocytes and ligand of G-protein coupled receptor
- Intestinal barrier function enhancement and repair
 - Enhance mucin production, tight junctions expression, colonocyte proliferation and migration
- Intestinal mucosal immunity modulation
 - Anti-inflammatory effects, regulation of immune cell proliferation and migration
- Antimicrobial activity

Postruminal prebiotic: gluconate

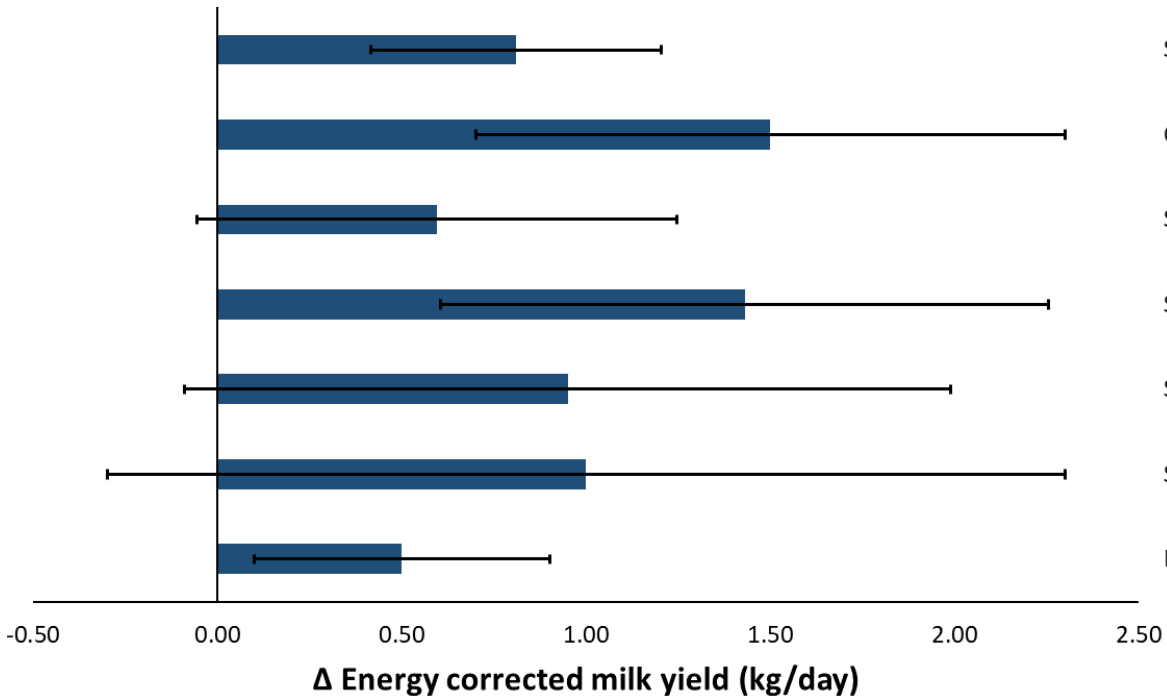
Hydrogenated fat embedded calcium gluconate (HFCG; Selko Lactibute)

Fat matrix is digested in the small intestine facilitating gluconate delivery to the hindgut

Recommended dose: 16g/cow/d (40% calcium gluconate)



Gluconate improves milk performance in dairy



Seymour et al., 2023 Trans. Anim. Sci.

Quanz et al., 2021 J. Dairy Sci. 104 (Suppl. 1)

Seymour et al., 2021 J. Dairy Sci. 104

Seymour et al., 2022 Can. J. Anim. Sci. 102

Seymour et al., 2023 J. Dairy Res. 1

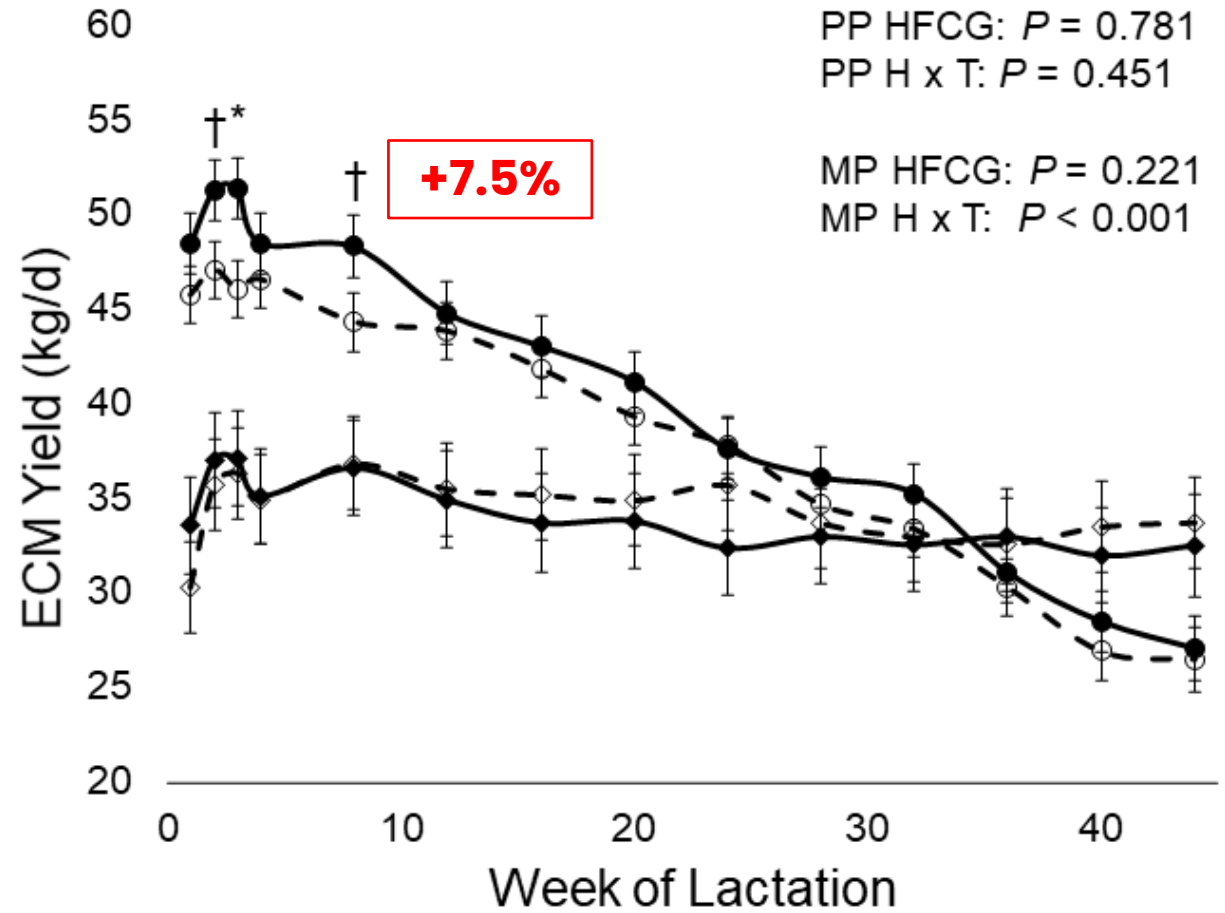
Sanz-Fernandez et al., 2023 Animal Open Space

In preparation

	No. studies
Milk yield, kg/d	↑↑
Milk fat, %	↑↑
Milk fat, g/d	↑↑↑↑
Milk protein, %	↑
Milk protein, g/d	↑↑↑
ECM / FCM	↑↑↑↑↑
Feed efficiency	↑

Gluconate improves milk performance in dairy

Burford, Canada
Supplementation:
Close-up + full lactation
Both primi- and multi-parous

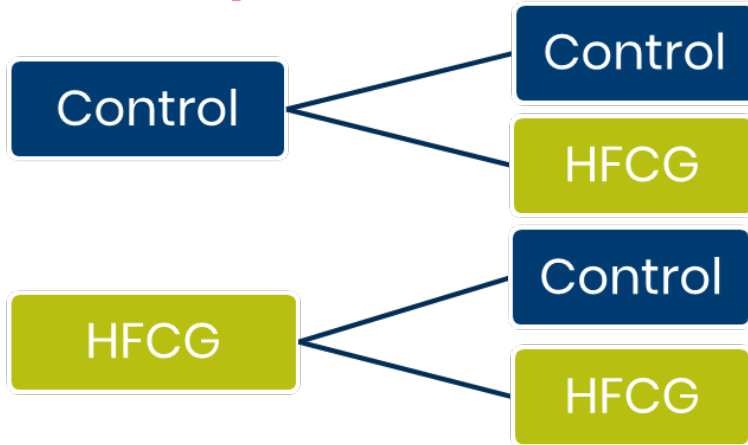


Gluconate improves milk performance in dairy

- Granja Madero, Mexico
- Multiparous

Close-up

0-100 DIM

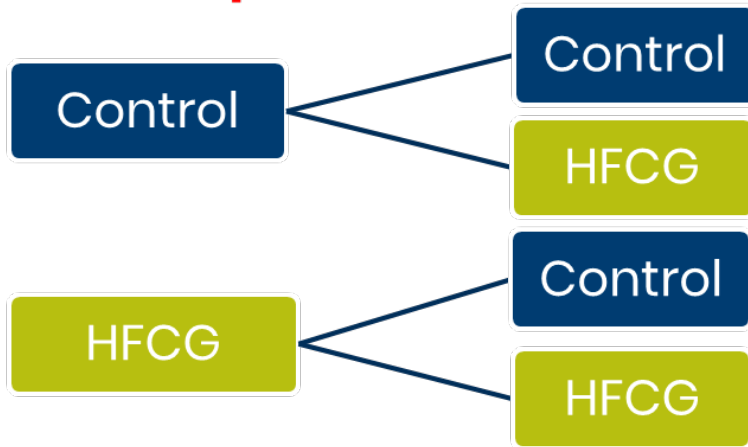


Gluconate improves milk performance in dairy

- Granja Madero, Mexico
- Multiparous

Close-up

0-100 DIM



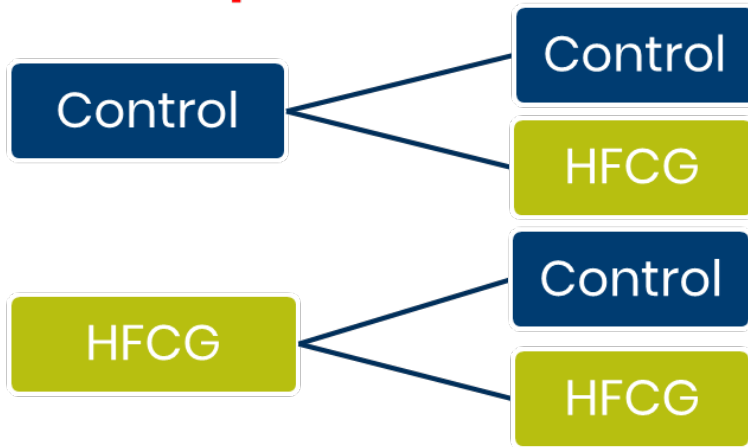
Parameter	Post CON	Post HFCG	% Change	SED	P-value
Milk protein content (%)	3.12	3.18	+ 0.06	0.038	0.125
Milk fat yield (g/d)	845	888	+ 5.1	23.1	0.068
Milk protein yield (g/d)	859	906	+ 5.5	26.2	0.077
Energy-corrected milk yield (kg/d)	24.1	25.2	+ 4.7	0.67	0.095

Gluconate improves milk performance in dairy

- Granja Madero, Mexico
- Multiparous

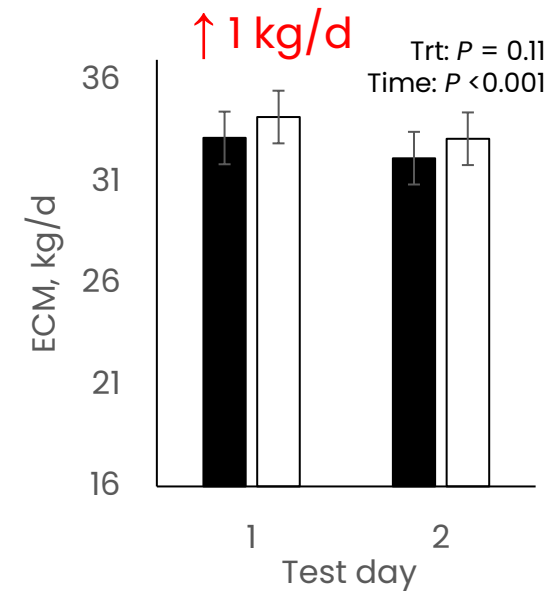
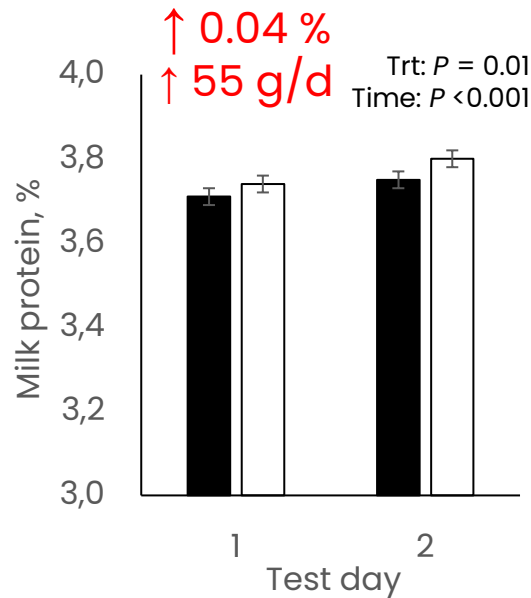
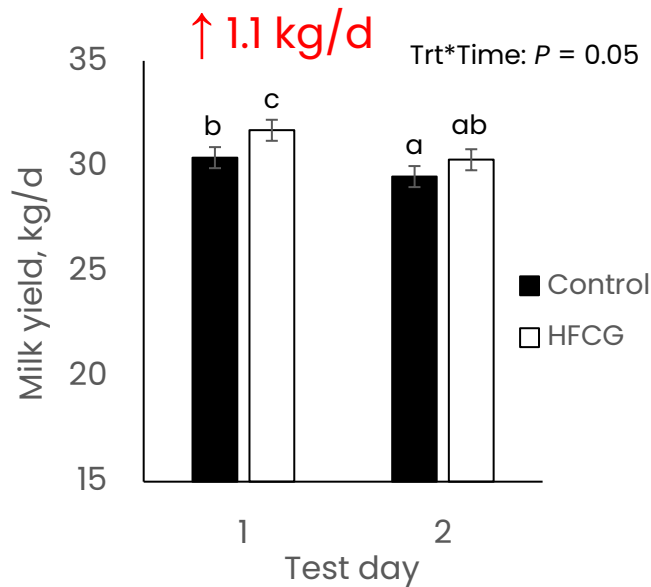
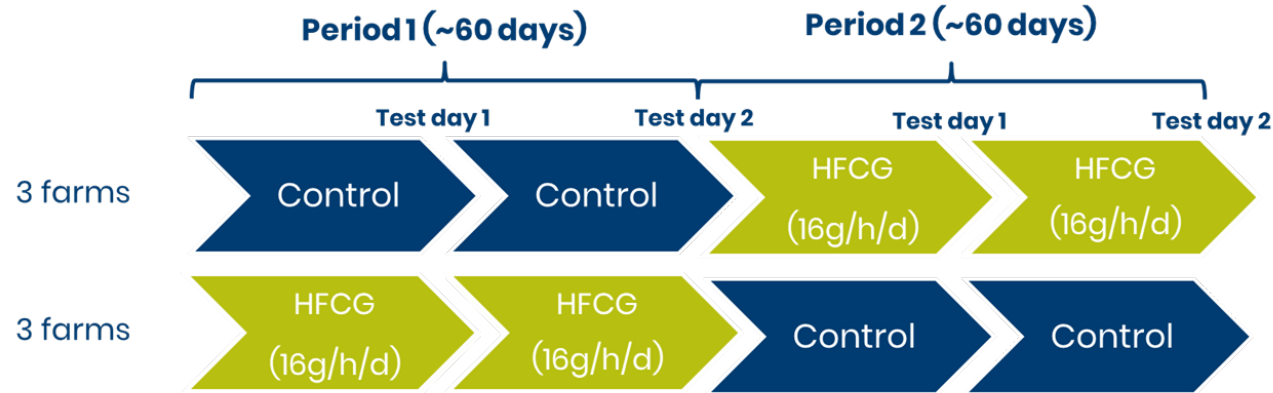
Close-up

0-100 DIM



Parameters	Pre CON	Pre HFCG	Diff., d	P-value
Days to first observed heat	42	41		0.82
Days to first service	78	75	-3	0.09
Days to confirmed pregnancy	94	79	-15	0.05

Gluconate improves milk performance in dairy



Gluconate: mode of action

- Changes in fermentation patterns
- Increased VFA production



Volatile fatty acids (VFAs)	GIT sections				
		Rumen	Cecum	Colon	Rectum
Acetate	LAC	56.17	79.7 ^a ↑	56.4 ↑	52.7 ^a ↑
	CON	57.63	61.8 ^b	35.6	32.0 ^b
	<i>P</i> -value	0.88	0.01	0.08	0.02
	SEM	4.67	3.52	6.01	4.49
Propionate	LAC	41.5	28.97 ^a ↑	21.2 ^a ↑	18.6 ^a ↑
	CON	42.3	17.86 ^b	11.3 ^b	9.09 ^b
	<i>P</i> -value	0.9	0.02	0.05	0.01
	SEM	2.92	2.43	2.53	1.79
Butyrate	LAC	8.8	14.1	9.13 ↑	6.82
	CON	10.68	13.1	4.9	6.85
	<i>P</i> - value	0.55	0.78	0.098	0.99
	SEM	1.50	1.66	1.28	1.26
Total VFA	LAC	115.57	125.41 ^a ↑	98.29 ↑	79.97 ^a ↑
	CON	121.44	95.55 ^b	58.97	49.22 ^b
	<i>P</i> - value	0.715	0.01	0.07	0.02
	SEM	7.70	6.38	9.66	6.91

Gluconate: mode of action

- Changes in fermentation patterns
- Increased VFA production
- Changes in microbiome

	Rumen	Cecum	Colon	Rectum
Bacterial Richness & Diversity Indexes	- No significant difference was observed in either Chao1 index, or in the number of Observed Features of microbial communities from GIT sections of steers fed CON (un-supplemented) or LAC (Calcium gluconate-supplemented) rations - Shannon and Simpson diversity indices were numerically greater in all samples collected from GIT sections of Angus steers fed LAC (Calcium gluconate-supplemented) rations - There was no significant difference in Good's Coverage Index			
Phylum level	No significant change	Firmicutes & Actinobacteria increased, and Bacteroidetes decreased	Actinobacteria decreased	No significant change
Family level	Bifidobacteriaceae & Family_XII increased Succinivibrionaceae decreased	Erysipelotrichaceae , Atopobiaceae, Peptostreptococcaceae , Clostridiaceae , Clostridiaceae_1 , & Eggerthellaceae increased Rikenellaceae & Muribaculaceae decreased	Ruminococcaceae & Muribaculaceae increased Lachnospiraceae, Erysipelotrichaceae, Atopobiaceae, Peptostreptococcaceae, Clostridiaceae_1 & Eggerthellaceae decreased	Rikenellaceae increased
Genus level	Lachnospiraceae_NK3A2_0_group increased	Romboutsia , Clostridium Clostridium_sensu_stricto_1, & Turicibacter increased Rikenellaceae_RC9_gut_group, Paeniclostridium & Eubacterium]_coprostanoligenes_group decreased	Eubacterium]_coprostanoligenes_group increased Clostridium_sensu_stricto_1 & Turicibacter decreased	No significant change

Gluconate: mode of action

- Changes in fermentation patterns
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	Rumen	Cecum	Colon	Rectum
Bacterial Richness & Diversity Indexes	- No significant difference was observed in either Chao1 index, or in the number of Observed Features of microbial communities from GIT sections of steers fed CON (un-supplemented) or LAC (Calcium gluconate-supplemented) rations - Shannon and Simpson diversity indices were numerically greater in all samples collected from GIT sections of Angus steers fed LAC (Calcium gluconate-supplemented) rations - There was no significant difference in Good's Coverage Index			
Phylum level	No significant change	Firmicutes & Actinobacteria increased, and Bacteroidetes decreased	Actinobacteria decreased	No significant change
Family level			Ruminococcaceae &	
Ca Gluconate impacted selected beneficial bacteria with roles in butyrate production and gut health				
Genus level	Succinivibrionaceae decreased	Rikenellaceae & Muribaculaceae decreased	Atopobiaceae, Peptostreptococcaceae, Clostridiaceae_1 & Eggerthellaceae decreased	
Genus level	Lachnospiraceae_NK3A2_0_group increased	Romboutsia, Clostridium Clostridium_sensu_stricto_1, & Turicibacter increased Rikenellaceae_RC9_gut_group, Paeniclostridium & Eubacterium]_coprostanoligenes_group decreased	Eubacterium]_coprostanoligenes_group increased Clostridium_sensu_stricto_1 & Turicibacter decreased	No significant change

Publications



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Postruminal infusion of calcium gluconate increases milk fat production and alters fecal volatile fatty acid profile in lactating dairy cows

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ARTICLE

Feeding and postruminal infusion of calcium gluconate to lactating dairy cows

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Effects of supplemental calcium gluconate embedded in a hydrogenated fat matrix on lactation, digestive, and metabolic variables in dairy cattle

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Effect of hydrogenated fat-embedded calcium gluconate on lactation performance in dairy cows

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Supplementation of hydrogenated fat-embedded calcium gluconate improves milk fat content and yield in multiparous Holstein dairy cattle

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Research article

Effects of hydrogenated fat-embedded calcium gluconate on lactation performance in multiple commercial dairy herds

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Evaluating lactation performance of multiparous dairy cattle to prepartum and/or postpartum supplementation of fat-embedded calcium gluconate

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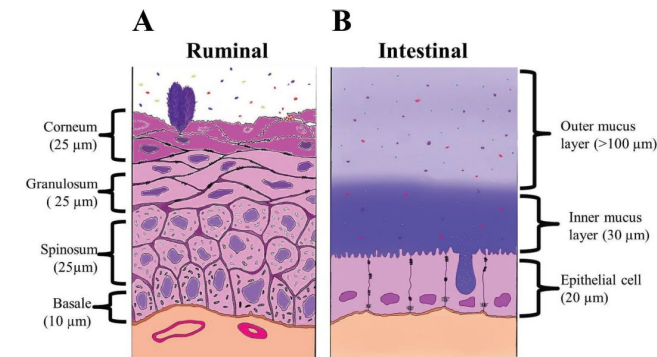
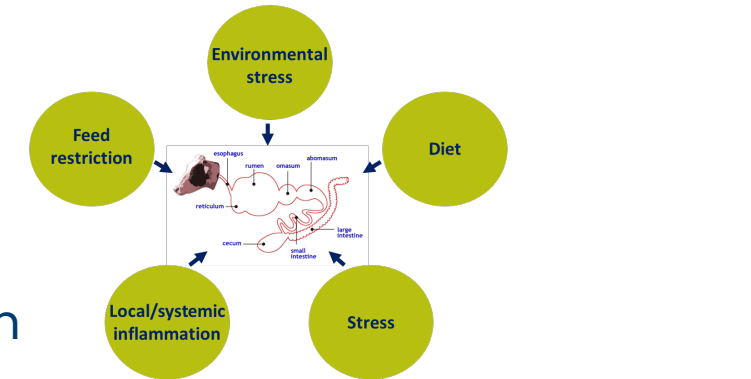
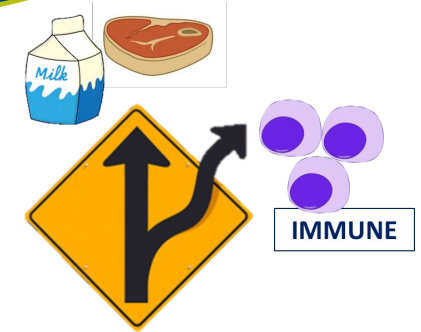
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Conclusions

- Gastrointestinal health is challenged by multiple factors during the productive cycle
 - Leaky gut is a source of systemic inflammation
 - Inflammation is a costly process from an energy and nutrient point of view
- The hindgut is affected by similar factors as compared to the rumen
 - The hindgut is a source of systemic inflammation?
 - Poor hindgut health represent an energetic burden for the cows
- Supporting postrumen health is an opportunity to improve performance and health





Thank you

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