

# CASE STUDY:

## Florida Dairy Feeding DCAD Plus

AHDairy.com

Another case study brought to you by Arm & Hammer Animal Nutrition.  
Real-world results on a large commercial dairy.

## DCAD Plus Boosts Milk Fat Levels, Increases IOFC

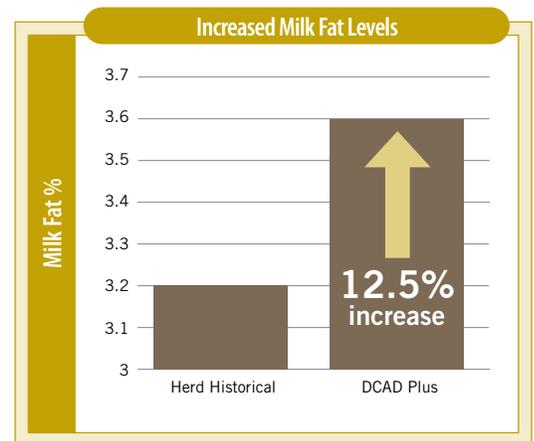
### Herd Challenge

A large commercial dairy in Florida was experiencing milk fat depression with no visible herd health issues. With the help of the herd nutritionist the dairy uncovered that the lactating ration caused production of trans fats in the rumen, shown to negatively impact milk fat production.<sup>1</sup> Based on these findings the nutritionist recommended feeding DCAD Plus® Stabilized Potassium Carbonate to increase ration potassium to 1.85% and offset the negative effects high levels of trans fats can cause.

- **Feeding rate:** Approximately 0.25 lbs. of DCAD Plus/cow/day.<sup>2</sup>
- **Dairy's goal:** Increase milk fat production and improve Income Over Feed Cost (IOFC).

### DCAD Plus Results

- **Increased Milk Fat Production:** Within one week milk fat levels increased by almost half a point from 3.2% to 3.6%.<sup>3</sup>
- **Greater Milk Yield:** Milk production rose by one pound per cow per day and other solids remained unchanged.



### Economic Benefits

Increasing milk fat production by feeding DCAD Plus can translate to multiple economic advantages:

- **Increased income per cow** per day by \$0.67, from \$11.53 to \$12.20.<sup>4</sup>
- **Improved IOFC** by \$0.395 per cow per day.
- **Generated greater herd profits.** Extrapolated over the entire herd, a \$120,475 increase in IOFC was projected.

Improved IOFC				
	Additional Income	DCAD Plus Cost <sup>5</sup>	Increased DMI <sup>6</sup>	Increased IOFC Potential
Cow/day	\$0.67	(\$0.20)	(\$0.075)	<b>\$0.395</b>
1,000-cow herd/305d	\$204,350	(\$61,000)	(\$22,875)	<b>\$120,475</b>

To learn more about how DCAD Plus can help boost milk fat levels and IOFC on your dairy, contact your nutritionist or ARM & HAMMER® representative, visit AHDairy.com or PeakReportOnline.com, or call 800-526-3563.

**DCAD Plus**  
The Plus Forage Needs

<sup>1</sup> Lock AL, Bauman DE, Jenkins TC. Understanding the Biology of Milk Fat Depression: From Basic Concepts to Practical Application, in *Proceedings*. Intermountain Nutrition Conference 2008;27-44.

<sup>2</sup> Consult your nutritionist for the appropriate feeding rate for your dairy.

<sup>3</sup> Data on file, 2011.

<sup>4</sup> Milk fat, protein and other solids prices are a three-year average of prices from 2008 – 2010 taken from <http://future.aae.wisc.edu/tab/prices.html#4>. Price of milk fat: \$1.56/lb., Price of milk protein: \$2.80/lb., Price of other solids: \$0.10/lb. The following production parameters were used to calculate milk price: milk production of 83 (before ration intervention) and 84 pounds (after ration intervention), milk protein of 3.0% and other solids of 5%.

<sup>5</sup> Cows were fed .25 lbs DCAD Plus/cow/day/305-day lactation at a price of \$0.80/lb.

<sup>6</sup> Assumed increased DMI of 1.5 lbs/cow/day at a marginal feed cost of \$0.050 /lb of TMR DM.

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