

# Press Talk



## QLF Dairy Product Manager

**Lisa Davis**

**Commentary on July 22, 2008 AgWeb.com article.**

**[Liquid feeds can increase intake, reduce the need for corn. - Rick Lundquist](#)**

QLF Liquid Supplement Research in the Press!

Attached is an article by Dr. Rick Lundquist, published on AgWeb.com. This article references the Journal of Dairy Science article which publishes the QLF-sponsored research trial at Ohio State University using QLF Dairy TMR 20.

In the OSU research study, diet NFC and starch were lowered from 41% and 27% (control), to 38% and 21%, respectively when 2.7 lb/day Dairy TMR 20 was included in the diet. Researchers found significantly increased energy corrected milk production when 2.7 lb/day Dairy TMR 20 was included in the diet.

Additional treatments further lowered NFC and starch 38% and 18%, respectively, and Dairy TMR 20 was included at 5.6 lb/day, with or without Rumensin® (11.5 g/ton TMR DMB). Production of milk was not different than controls, but fat and protein production was maintained in these treatments, even with Rumensin® inclusion. These results show that further reducing starch and including dietary sugars does not sacrifice component production.

Dr. Lundquist also reminds us that liquid supplements improve ration palatability and sorting, to ensure cows receive adequate effective fiber to maintain healthy rumen pH and fiber digestion.

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## LIQUID FEEDS CAN INCREASE INTAKE, REDUCE THE NEED FOR CORN

by Rick Lundquist



If you're not already including a liquid feed such as molasses or a molasses blend in your rations, summer is a good time to realize the benefits.

Liquid feeds can improve the palatability of a ration, increase intake and reduce ingredient separation and potential sorting. There have been concerns that the rapidly degradable sugars in liquid feeds can lead to milk fat depression. But if fed correctly, liquid feeds can actually help to maintain or increase butterfat.

In a trial recently published in the *Journal of Dairy Science*, a liquid feed composed of molasses and corn steep liquor was fed at 3.25% or 6.5% of the dry matter. The liquid feed and soyhulls replaced corn in the ration to reduce the non fiber carbohydrate (NFC), while maintaining total starch and sugars. Basically, sugar replaced starch in the rations. Starch was reduced from 27% to between 18% and 21% on the liquid feed diets, while total sugar went from about 4% up to almost 9% of the dry matter. Forage NDF was maintained at 21%, and NFC was reduced from 41% to 38% of the dry matter with the liquid feed.

Milk fat test on the liquid feed diets didn't differ from a control ration with no liquid feed, and cows gave significantly more fat corrected milk when fed 3.25% liquid feed on the lower NFC diet. Feeding 6.5% liquid feed increased dry matter intake, but not milk production. Milk fat percentage was not affected by the high liquid feeding rate, even when Rumensin was included in the diet.

I include a liquid feed in most of my diets. In most areas of the country, liquid feeds are very cost effective, especially when compared to current market corn prices. They are also a convenient and safe way to include NPN in the diet and are an excellent carrier for fat and certain minerals and vitamins.

Reference: Firkens, et al., *Journal of Dairy Science*, 91:1969-1984

Rick Lundquist is an independent nutrition and management consultant based in Duluth, Minn. You can contact him at [siestadog@aol.com](mailto:siestadog@aol.com).