

SUPPLEMENT BIOTIN TO BOOST EARLY MILK PRODUCTION

In typical dairy rations, biotin is not supplemented. Rumen microorganisms and normal feedstuffs provide plenty of it. However, research done at Ohio State University may change your mind.

The Study began with 44 Holstein cows 14 days before calving and continued until 100 days in milk. Cows were fed either no supplemental biotin, 10 milligrams, or 20 milligrams of biotin per day. Milk production and dry matter intake were measured daily. Weekly milk samples were also taken to determine milkfat and protein levels.

Results showed that supplementing biotin improved milk production and protein yields but did not affect dry matter intake or milkfat. Compared to controls, the milk yield response was greater with 20 mg of biotin (+6.2 pounds of milk) than with 10 mg (+2.0). Biotin has also been linked with improving hoof quality.

Reprinted by permission from the November 2002 issue of Hoard's Dairyman. Copyright 2002 by W.D. Hoard and Sons Company, Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin.

