

NATURAL FARMA

Dairy Herd Consuming 10% Less Imported Protein in Diets (No Soya Used)

Dairy consultant DJL Agriculture has been using Humate (a mineraloid carbon source) in his client's diets since 2018 in order to improve dairy health and performance by supporting the cow's natural immunity. David and Dan Lievesley who run DJL Agriculture were the first people to do this in the UK due their belief in building soil health and there is one local farm which has been exhibiting some noticeable results which they would like to share:

Case Study: N & F Roobottom, Highlands Park Farm, Rangemore, Staffordshire

- Regenerative path taken for 10 years, reduced nitrogen usage on the farm by 50% in this time, no maize or wheat grown (nitrogen usage is planned to drop by 75%)
- 180 pedigree Holstein herd, 8500 litres at 4.63 butterfat and 3.42 protein
- 4500 litres are produced from inputs grown on the farm
- TMR system
- Rotational grazing system and replacement rate of 25%
- Calving interval of 382 days
- Conception rate to first service 50%



Adding Humates to the diets in the blend since 2018 has contributed to the following benefits which should be of interest to every dairy farmer:

- Reduced mastitis/cell counts (121 scc). Only 1.8 cases of mastitis per month in 2021
- Increased butterfat has risen from 4.2-4.6 (currently running at 5%)
- Reduced purchased protein input of 10-12% in the diets due to improved feed utilisation which is a considerable saving
- Minimal antibiotic/vaccination usage
- One cow treated for lameness in 2021
- Cows handle heat stress much better in the summer months
- Nonexistent digital dermatitis and positive comments from foot trimmer
- Improved soil health due to humates being deposited on the land from the grazing
- Vastly reduced odour/ammonia emitted from the manure (very noticeable on visits)
- Calmer & far more content cows to handle
- Healthier calves since using humate

As you can see adding a small amount of Humate daily at a cost of approximately 3p/day/cow has been remarkable so I am sure lots of consultants/advisors and farmers would like to see their clients and cows benefit from lower input costs, increased milk quality parameters and improvements in overall health with this simple addition to the feed. David is of the belief that the humate acts as a catalyst which helps raise the pH level in the cow to allow her to extract maximum nutrients from the food sources all year around.

FarmaGuard humate is available from all major compounders and can also be supplied direct to farm to home mill/mixing. Please visit www.naturalfarma.co.uk for more information or speak to David Lievesley who can be contacted directly through his website <https://djlagriculture.co.uk>