



Dairy Tech-Line



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Hubbard Feeds adds OptiPass Nutrients to Product Lineup

Recognizing the need for consistent ration delivery in dairy cows, Hubbard Feeds Inc. has added a new line of encapsulated nutritional supplements.

OptiPass™ Methionine, OptiPass Lysine, OptiPass Choline and OptiPass Multi-B are now part of Hubbard's extensive supplement portfolio. The encapsulation on each of these four nutrients allows for passage through the rumen to the small intestine where the cow can optimally utilize it.

"Encapsulating these nutrients not only helps the cow, but it also helps the producer and the nutritionist," explains Dan Schimek, dairy nutritionist with Hubbard Feeds Inc. "It helps the cow process the nutrients properly, it allows nutritionists to have a consistent diet and saves producers money because nutrients aren't being lost or wasted."

Each of the four OptiPass nutrients are coated using a unique encapsulation process called Micropearls®,. Micropearls is a spray freezing technique that uses very low temperatures (-76 F) to embed the ingredients in a vegetable polymer matrix that results in a microgranule resistant to degradation in the rumen. Once past the rumen, the microgranules are subject to normal digestive processes in the abomasum and small intestine, allowing for release and absorption of the nutrients.

"Different nutrients are fed to cows to yield different responses and these encapsulated products may not always be used together," Schimek continues. "For example, using OptiPass Multi-B can help with hoof health and may enhance milk production. OptiPass Choline, on the other hand, helps at calving time and sets the pace for the first few weeks back in the milking string."

Essential amino acids lysine and methionine help increase milk fat and protein production, as well as milk production, Schimek explains. When protein is overfed, excess protein is excreted as nitrogen in urine and could potentially become a nutrient management problem. Encapsulated lysine and methionine allows nutritionists to balance diets lower in total protein and maintain production.

Schimek adds that when utilizing any of these products – which may not fit into every situation on the farm – it's best to work with a nutritionist to ensure balanced rations for the herd.

Hubbard Feeds Inc., based in Mankato, Minn., is a leader in animal nutrition, dedicated to providing innovative feed products. Hubbard specializes in providing nutritional expertise and high quality service to help producers be more successful. Hubbard was the first major U.S. feed manufacturer to be ISO 9001 registered and HACCP certified, the international standards for feed quality management and food safety. For additional information about Hubbard Feeds, visit hubbardfeeds.com. The Micropearls technology is a proprietary process of SODA Feed Ingredients, a worldwide leader in protection and release technologies.