

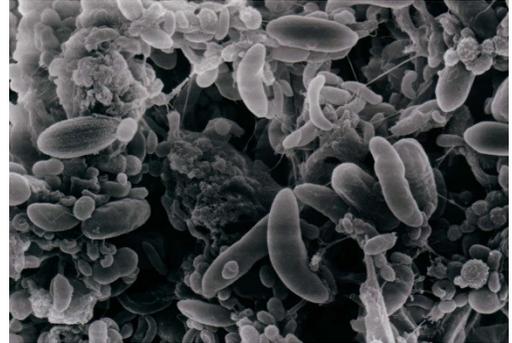


# STRATEGIC SUPPLEMENTATION

## ◆ KNOW THE GOAL

In forage-based diets, we typically want to maximize utilization of the available grass or hay. That means encouraging forage intake, and also being sure cattle get all the good they can out of that feed. Both are accomplished when conditions promote growth and activity of the “right” micro-organisms in the rumen.

When life is good for these bacteria, protozoa and fungi, they increase in numbers and fermentation activity. That means that the feedstuffs reaching the rumen can be broken down more thoroughly, releasing more nutrients and essentially increasing the digestibility of that feed. At the same time, feed is broken down more rapidly. This opens up space for additional feed to be consumed. With the low-quality forage often fed to cows, supplementation that meets the needs of the microbes can lead to truly significant increases in total intakes.



So what are those needs? Primarily a balanced diet and a fairly constant environment. Strategic supplementation starts with those things in mind.

## ◆ HAPPY BUGS

A large body of research makes it pretty clear what it takes to effectively support “cellulolytic,” or fiber-digesting, microbes.

- ✓ Adequate forage volume;
- ✓ Supplemental energy in the form of soluble fiber or sugar;
- ✓ Limited starch and fat;
- ✓ Concentrated (>20%) supplemental crude protein that:
  - Is available in the rumen
  - Meets specific needs primarily for ammonia, and also amino acids and peptides;
- ✓ Minimal fluctuations in nutrient supplies or pH.

## ◆ WESTWAY’S NUTRITIONAL SOLUTIONS



Molasses-based protein supplements are an exceptional option for feeding the rumen microbes that in turn feed your cows and calves. The degradable crude protein and sugars, consumed across the course of the day, are designed to support continual, enhanced forage intake and digestion. And liquid feed can easily and practically deliver additional nutrients and additives.