UFAC UK
Past, Present and Future

Since its establishment by Robert Jones in 1976, UFAC has become a force in ruminant nutrition based on the foundation of developing innovative products to help farmers meet new challenges. Robert developed the techniques and technology to allow the stable incorporation of fats, molasses, glycerol and sugar syrups into TMR systems. This also had the benefit of protecting the liquids from rumen degradation, making them rumen-inert.

- We have invested in our production facility in Rutland, with a state of the art process control system, new raw material storage tanks, automatic packing systems and a new array of quality assurance facilities. This has all been overseen by Richard Jones, the next generation of the family to be involved in UFAC UK. Production capacity has been significantly increased to keep pace with ever-rising sales.
- We have expanded the raw materials available for use, meaning products can be more closely tailored to customer requirements.
- To facilitate a thriving and rapidly-growing export business, UFAC US LLC was established in 2008. In all, we export to almost 30 countries world-wide. As with our UK operations, the aim is to enable customers and farmers to maximise the value and use of home-grown raw materials and forages.
- The future development will be determined by the customers and their marketplace. UFAC UK are uniquely positioned to supply dairy farmers with products that will improve production and fertility; improve cow health; and, ultimately, increase profitability for the farmer. For beef and sheep farmers, UFAC UK can help improve growth rates and carcass quality in finishing stock, whilst ensuring breeding animals perform to their genetic potential.
- We continue to develop innovative solutions based on R&D. We are investigating ways to reduce saturated fats in milk and improving fatty acid profile of meat. We continue to investigate ways to improve overall digestibility of fats, and increase protein utilisation.
- UFAC UK products also provide concentrated energy for pigs and poultry aimed at improving the quality of meat and eggs. The essential fatty acids in UFAC UK products improve health and disease resistance, and are also used in a variety of pet foods too.
- As pressure mounts on all livestock production to produce food cost-effectively, with due regard to consumer health and the environment, UFAC UK and our products will prove their worth time and again.

UFAC UK recently said goodbye to Syd Blenkharn who has been distributing our products for over 25 years, serving farmers in Cumbria and Lancashire. Syd has seen the highs and lows of the farming community, but has enjoyed massive support from his customers throughout these times.

Syd has been working closely with Simon Mellor, Sales Manager for McCaskie at their Carlisle branch to ensure a smooth transition of business for his customers. Simon can be reached on 07714 769 218 or 01228 527 058.

UFAC UK Say Thank You for 25 years of Support

There is considerable interest in feeding products containing omega 3 oils to dairy cows. But the message from Mike Chown of UFAC UK is make sure you choose the right product as there are big differences between omega 3 sources.

Omega 3 is a fatty acid and Mike explains that the most effective form of omega 3 in dairy diets is long chain omega 3 fatty acids such as EPA and DHA. These are naturally and uniquely found in fish oils but not in plant derived oils.

"Plant oils contain long chain omega 3 fatty acids and these cannot be directly utilised by cows," Mike continues. "Instead they have to be converted by the cow into the long chain form. This is a very inefficient process which means that cows will show a smaller response than if fed the long chain form from fish oils, as only a small portion of the omega 3s fed from plant oils will end up in the form needed."

He also points out that in the process in the cow some of the medium chain omega 3 in plant oils will be metabolised into the omega 6 product which can actually reduce fertility as it is proven to interfere with prostaglandin levels.

"Many products are promoted as containing omega 3s and having a benefit on fertility and the immune system in particular," Mike comments. "But to get the best results you need to make sure that you feed omega 3s from fish oils and not from plant derived oils such as linseed."

There is no doubt that increasing omega 3 levels in dairy diets can help improve fertility and reduce the problems with inflammatory conditions such as mastitis and laminitis, but only if you feed the correct form. Insist on omega 3 products from marine sources and you will be doing the best for your cows."

DON’T FEED OMEGA 3 TO COWS...
...until you speak to UFAC UK

UFAC (UK) Ltd, Waterwitch House, Exeter Road, Newmarket, Suffolk, CB8 8RX
July is only just upon us, but already thoughts are turning to the winter season. All the signs are that milk prices will drop from the recent heights that dairy farmers have appreciated.

To make up the downfall, and encouraged by the terms of some contracts, many dairy farmers are placing emphasis on milk fat quantity. Our experience is that this is often not a cost-effective strategy and the focus should instead be on efficiency. At UFAC UK we are confident that fats supplements based on highly digestible soft oils will continue to play a key role in cost-effective milk production.

Further ahead, however, we can see milk fat quality becoming a major consideration as purchasers look to reduce saturated fat levels. Unsaturated fats in a rumen-inert form are a proven way to drop saturated fat content in the milk, making the fat more acceptable to consumers.

We have the products already; we're just waiting for the marketplace to catch us up!

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**Fats Demystified**

Use of fat supplements in dairy cow diets can be a real minefield and can appear a very complex area. Here, Joe Mapedi from UFAC UK answers some questions to try and help you in making a choice.

**Q:** So Joe, why should I use a fat anyway?

**A:** First and foremost – energy! It can be a big challenge getting enough energy into high yielding cows. Fats contain well over twice as much energy as starch and sugar. If we want to ensure all the nutrients the cow requires are packed into a limited dry matter intake, fats are a crucial element. Because so much energy can be supplied in only 500 grammes or so, there is more space left within the intake limit to allow the inclusion of higher levels of lower energy – but very cost effective – forages, increasing the overall utilisation of home grown forages and drive down total feed cost per litre. This not only maximises forage utilisation, but also ensures rumen function is optimised, and a healthy rumen gives healthier and more productive cows. And a point that is often overlooked is that unlike increasing inclusion rates of starches and cereals, all of this energy from fat carries no acidosis risk.

**Q:** OK – so all oils supply this energy, right?

**A:** Afraid not, it’s a little more complicated. To use an oil, animals need to emulsify it. This happens post-rumen. If the fats fed are solids they have to be melted first. So it follows, if the fats have a melting point higher than the body temperature of the cow (39°C), the cow will find it more difficult to emulsify them and use them efficiently. If you think that saturated fatty acids such as C16 and C18 fats have melting points of around 63°C-69°C, you can easily see why it is hard for them to be used effectively.

**Q:** OK – so is it just energy they supply?

**A:** No! Some oils contain Essential Fatty Acids. These are fatty acids that the cow needs in order to be efficient and productive, but they cannot synthesise themselves. So they have to be included as part of the diet. Chief amongst these are the long-chain omega-3 fatty acids DHA and EPA – and these are only found in fish oils, nowhere else.

**Q:** Essential? Just how important are they?

**A:** Supplying the cow with EPA and DHA has been shown to improve health and reproductive performance. Numerous trials show that increasing EPA and DHA increases progesterone production; and this means bulking activity is increased, making heat detection easier while early embryo loss is decreased. All of this means fewer days open and shorter calving intervals. EPA and DHA also improve the cows’ immune system, meaning reduced losses as a result of inflammatory disease such as mastitis and laminitis and less vet attention.

**Q:** OK… so what does that mean to my cows?

**A:** By using soft oils from soya, rape, sunflower and fish, you can make sure your cows have the best, most highly available energy and essential oil sources included in their diet, meaning they will probably produce milk more efficiently. Your cows will likely have to mobilise less body fat in early lactation; will get in calf more readily and not lose the embryo in early pregnancy; and be healthier overall. Of course, this assumes the overall diet is balanced in the first place.

**Q:** And for me?

**A:** Well, healthier cows are almost always more productive cows. Field studies in the last three years suggest cows utilise soft oil blends better (even when total oil content is less) and produce more milk – between 1 and 2 litres per head per day. They also lose less condition in early lactation. All in all, it means more profit for you, from more milk, fewer empty days, less straw of semen and less veterinary attention.

**Q:** Thanks, that has been helpful. Anything else to consider?

**A:** The golden rule is get the basics right first! Whilst the right fat blend will help maximise use of homegrown feeds and forages, these need to be the best quality you can make. You then need to ensure the whole diet is well balanced. Only then will the best fat blend, based on highly digestible soft oils, help to push up your profits.

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