

# Levabon® Rumen E

## a new generation autolyzed yeast



For improved  
rumen function and productivity



Euroopa Maaelu Arengu  
Põllumajandusfond:  
Euroopa investeringud  
maapirkondadesse

**Vesna Jenkins, PhD**  
Global Product Manager  
Competence Center Gut Performance

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## Outline

- High energy diet – SARA challenge
- BIOMIN® Solution - Yeast as feed additive for dairy cows
- MoA of Levabon® Rumen E
- Proven in research and field
- Application
- Conclusion

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## The History of Yeast and Humans

- Goes back as far as civilization
- The basis of standard bread and many fermented drinks
- Beer is still produced with some very historic strains
- Recently beer and mead was brewed from a 5000 year-old Egyptian strain



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## The History of Yeast Supplementation in Agriculture

- A more recent thing (decades rather than millenia)
- Now a common feature of modern dairy farming  
(used on majority of high-producing dairy farms)
- Benefits can be seen in rumen fermentation and production

*Saccharomyces cerevisiae*

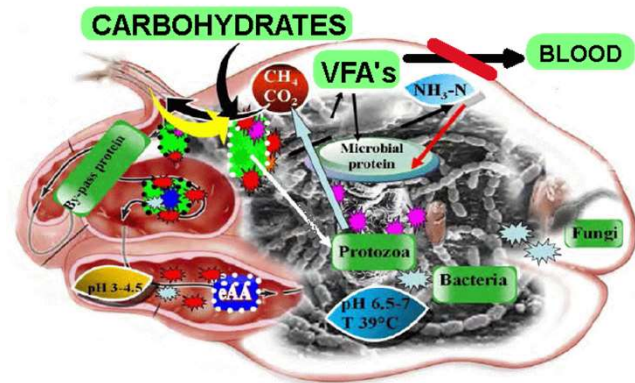


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## Healthy rumen healthy cow

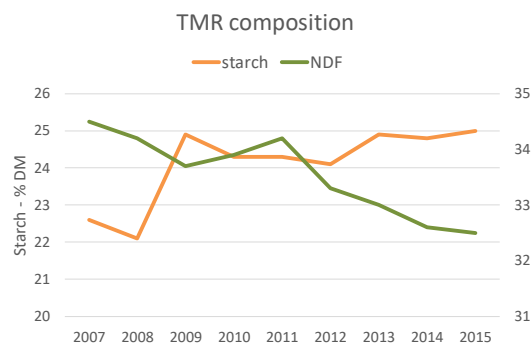
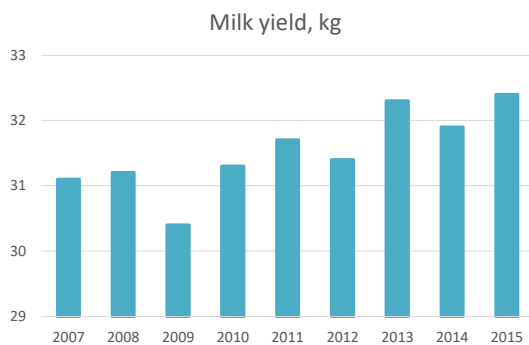
- Ruminants have a unique ability to digest forage
- This is due to rumen fermentation by microorganisms
- Rumen microorganisms produce volatile fatty acids (VFA's) – a primary source of energy for the ruminant
- Rumen microorganisms are also responsible for the majority of the protein supply for ruminants
- Yeast like Levabon® Rumen E stimulates rumen microbial activity



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## Shift in carbohydrates formulation of dairy diets

10,839,461 DHI records in northeastern US dairy herds



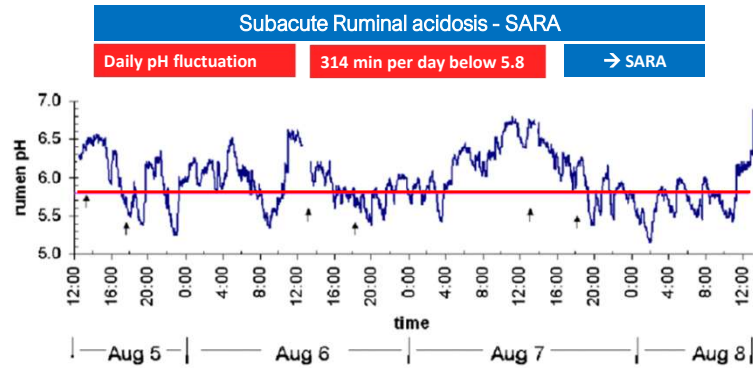
Hristov et al., 2018

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## Pressure for High Performance



- Modern farming involves high pressure to perform
- High starch diet can increase production but means a risk of acidosis
- Subacute rumen acidosis (SARA) and other health disorders depend on the degree of ruminal pH decrease (*Kleen and Cannizzo 2012, Minuti et al. 2014*).



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## Rumen changes during Subacute Rumen Acidosis (SARA)



### Microbiota Shift

- Lower pH → Imbalance of the microbiota ↓
- Gram-negative bacteria → Endotoxin release ↑
- Fiber-fermenting bacteria ↓
- Lactate producer ↑

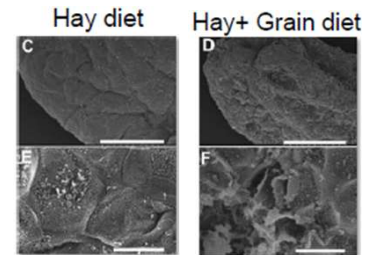
Neubauer et al., 2018

### And Rumen Wall Affected

- Reduced papillae size and function ↓
- Reduced uptake of volatile fatty acids and nutrients ↓

Acid load+low pH

↓  
 Profound cell damage  
 Lesions on rumen papillae  
 Tight junctions are disrupted



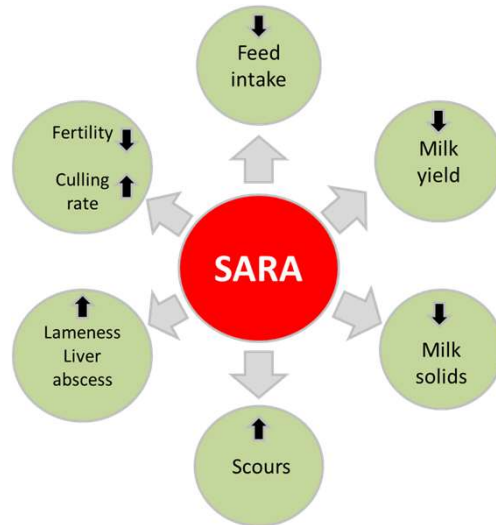
Steele et al., 2011, Liu et al., 2013, Meissner et al., 2017

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## Consequences of SARA

SARA



Prevalence 11% to 33% of cows  
(depending on DIM and diet)  
(O'Grady et al. 2008; Morgante et al. 2007)

Costs 400€ /cow/year  
(Stone 1999, Plaizier et. Al., 2002)

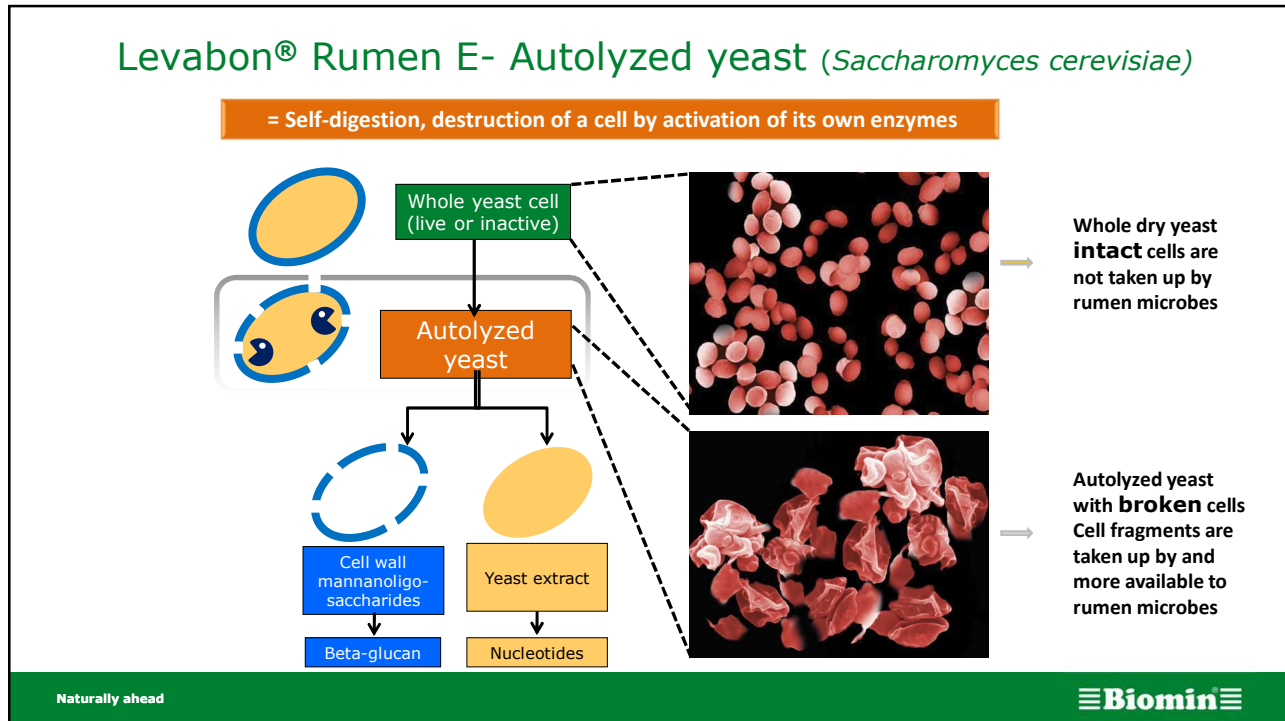
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## Management of Acidosis



- Avoid rapid diet transition
- Moderate starch content if possible
- Consider rumen buffers
- Use feed additives such as Levabon® autolyzed yeast

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## Levabon® Rumen E – Modes of Action

### Multiple components for Multiple Modes of Action

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>Mannan-oligosaccharides (MOS)</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prebiotic – stimulates specific microbial population (e.g fibrolytic bacteria)</li> <li>Prevents pathogen adsorption</li> <li>Stimulates immune system</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>β -glucans</b></p>                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prebiotic</li> <li>Activates several immune cells : macrophages, neutrophils, monocytes, natural killer cells</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>Nucleotides</b></p>                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cell signalling</li> <li>Cofactors in enzymatic reactions</li> <li>Energy (ATP)</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>Amino Acids and Peptides</b></p>      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nutrient uptake</li> <li>Cell stimulation</li> </ul>  |

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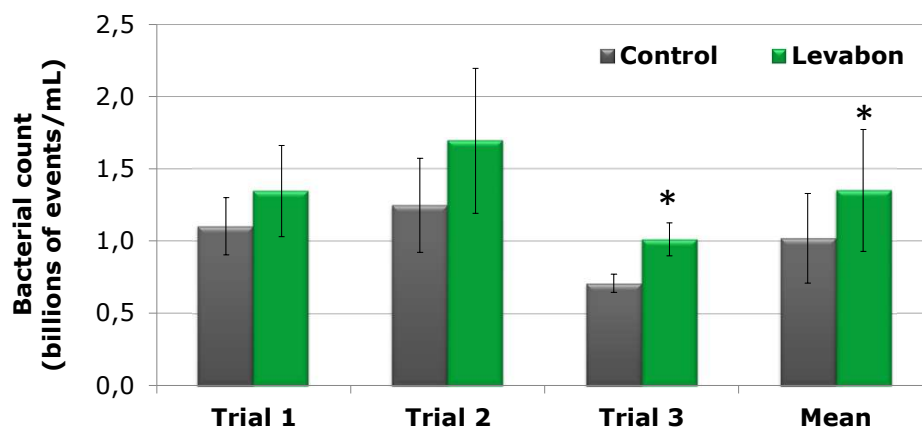
## Levabon® Rumen E – Features



- Stimulation of beneficial microbiota
  - Improving rumen activity
  - Less pressure from pathogens

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### *In Vitro* Rumen bacterial count



Bacterial abundances in rumen fluid *in vitro*,  $n=18$ , \* =  $p<0.05$

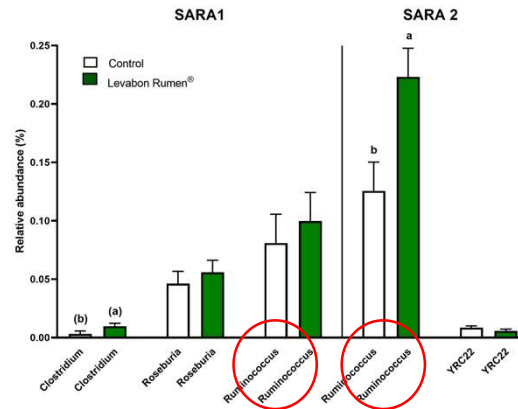
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## Effect of Levabon® (AY) on microbiota during the SARA challenge

vetmeduni  
vienna

### Levabon®:

- ↑ Increase of fiber fermenters (e.g. *Ruminococcus*)
- ↑ Increase of gram-positive bacteria
- ↓ Reduction of gram-negative bacteria



J. Dairy Sci. 101:1–15  
<https://doi.org/10.3168/jds.2017-13565>  
 © American Dairy Science Association, 2018.

High-grain diets supplemented with phytogetic compounds or autolyzed yeast modulate ruminal bacterial community and fermentation in dry cows

V. Neubauer,\* R. Petri,\* E. Humer,\* I. Kröger,\* E. Mann,† N. Reisinger,‡ M. Wagner,† and Q. Zebeli\*<sup>1</sup>

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## Levabon® Rumen E – Features



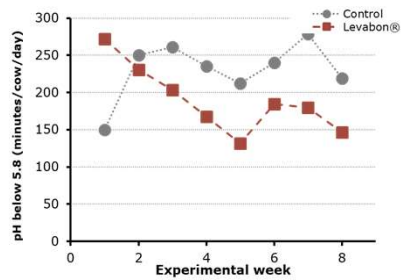
- Stimulation of beneficial microbiota
  - Improving rumen activity
  - Less pressure from pathogens
- Stabilizing rumen pH
  - Less time spent under SARA conditions,
  - Less occurrence of metabolic diseases

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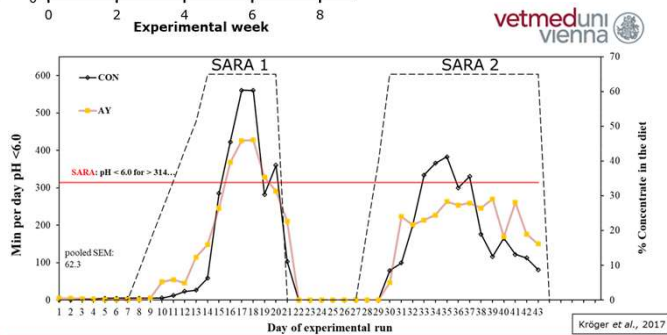
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## Lower risk of SARA proven with Levabon®



| Parameter                | Control           | Levabon®          |
|--------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Rumen pH                 | 6.05 <sup>b</sup> | 6.16 <sup>a</sup> |
| pH below 5.8 (min/cow/d) | 254 <sup>a</sup>  | 125 <sup>b</sup>  |



### Conclusion

- Shorter time spent below the threshold for SARA (<pH 5.8)
- Maintaining higher pH in the Levabon® supplemented cows

➔ Lower risk of SARA when Levabon® supplemented

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## Levabon® Rumen E – Features



- Stimulation of beneficial microbiota
  - Improving rumen activity
  - Less pressure from pathogens
- Stabilizing rumen pH
  - Less time spent under SARA conditions,
  - Less occurrence of metabolic diseases
- Improved feed digestibility
  - More VFA's / nutrients for animal growth and productivity
  - Higher feed efficiency

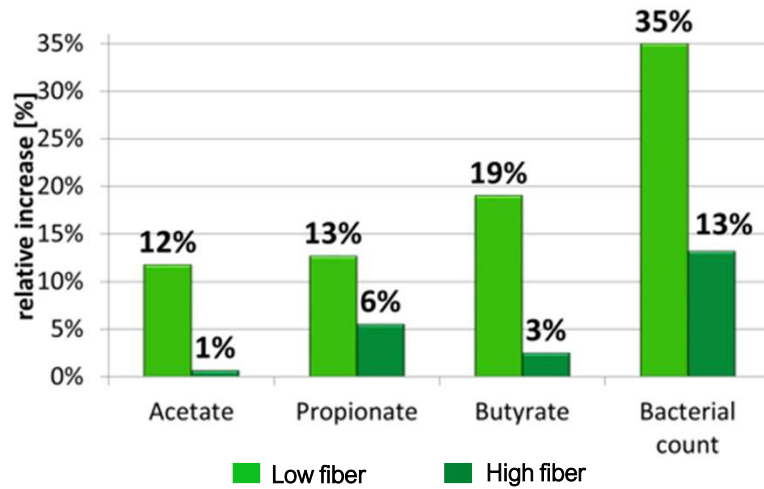
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## *In vitro* Rusitec trial with low and high fiber diet



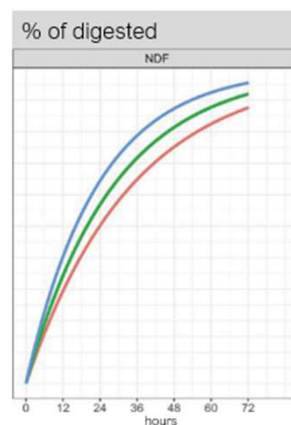
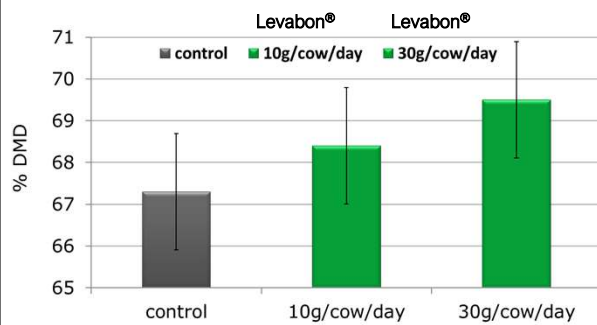
Relative with Levabon® supplementation compared to Control



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## Total tract digestibility and *in situ* NDF degradation



Treatment  
 — Control  
 — Levabon 10 g  
 — Levabon 30 g

- Levabon® boosts diet and fiber digestibility

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## Effects of Levabon® on dairy cows performance, Blanca from the Pyrenees Trial, 2018

**Blanca**  
From the Pyrenees

### Experimental site and design:

- 63 Holsteins dairy cows; average DIM 127; average lactation number: 2.8; average milk yield at the beginning of the trial 33 kg
- Control Group- no Levabon® and Levabon® Group received 20 g/cow/day
- Diet: TMR *ad libitum*
  - 43% forage: ryegrass hay, fescue hay, wheat silage, ryegrass silage, alfalfa hay
  - 55% grain: barley, corn, soybean meal, soybean hulls, molasses, wheat middlings, beet pulp,
  - 1.7% minerals and vitamins: calcium carbonate, sodium chloride, magnesium oxide, mineral vitamix premix.
- Nutrients: CP 15.8%; NDF 30.6%; ADF 20.4%; NFC 43.0%; Starch 26.2%; NEL<sup>1</sup>, Mcal/kg 1.62

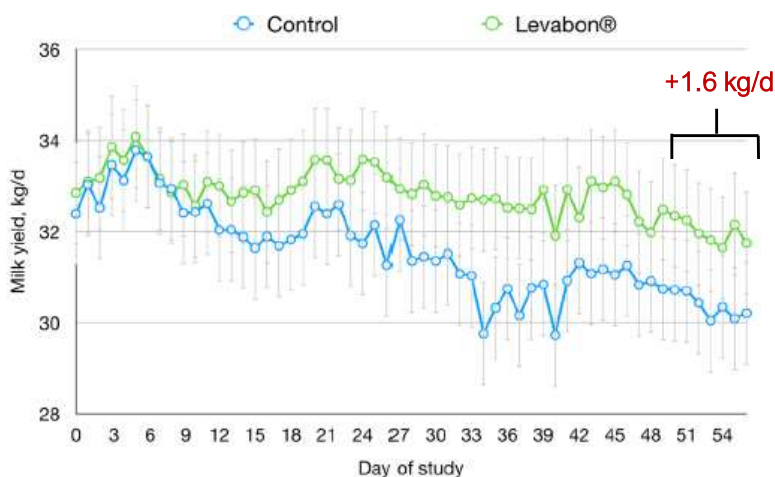
(<sup>1</sup> Calculated according to NRC (2001))



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## Levabon® effect on Daily Milk Yield



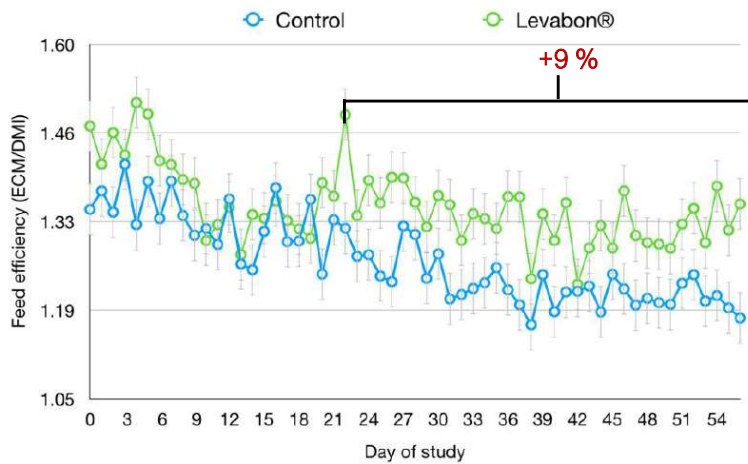
- Levabon® significantly increased milk yield by 1.2 kg/d over time (P<0.05)
- At the end of trial milk yield difference 1.6 kg/d
- Similar fat % and protein %

Figure 1. Milk production as affected by dietary treatments

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## Feed Efficiency (ECM/kg DMI)



- Feed efficiency began similar, with a Levabon® benefit increasing over time ( $P < 0.01$ )
- Feed efficiency consistently higher with Levabon® from 21 days
- Levabon® group feed efficiency averaged 1.35 compared to 1.27 of Control

**Figure 5.** Efficiency of milk production (ECM/DMI) as affected by dietary treatments

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## Milk Yield (kg/day) effects over four farms



- Levabon® group received 15 g/cow/d
- Diet: TMR (hay, grass silage, maize silage, concentrate, starch varied from farm to farm from 16 to 22%)

|                | N   | Control | Treatment | Treatment effect difference | SEM   | P            |
|----------------|-----|---------|-----------|-----------------------------|-------|--------------|
| <b>Overall</b> | 178 | 34.8    | 35.7      | 0.87                        | 0.296 | <b>0.004</b> |
| <b>Farm A</b>  | 32  | 32.9    | 34.1      | 1.26                        | 0.559 | <b>0.034</b> |
| <b>Farm B</b>  | 64  | 34.9    | 35.5      | 0.60                        | 0.502 | 0.233        |
| <b>Farm C</b>  | 52  | 36.2    | 37.4      | 1.16                        | 0.642 | <b>0.078</b> |
| <b>Farm D</b>  | 30  | 35.1    | 35.5      | 0.41                        | 0.433 | 0.356        |

### Conclusion

- As a result of this successful study, around 100 000 dairy cows have been supplemented with Levabon® on a daily basis in Netherlands and Belgium.

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## Levabon® trial, Maccarese, Italy

- The aim of this feeding trial was to evaluate the effect of supplementing autolyzed yeast (Levabon® Rumen E) on performance parameters of high yielding dairy cows at a large-scale commercial farm under a Mediterranean climate.



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## Effects of Levabon® on dairy cows performance in Mediterranean climate

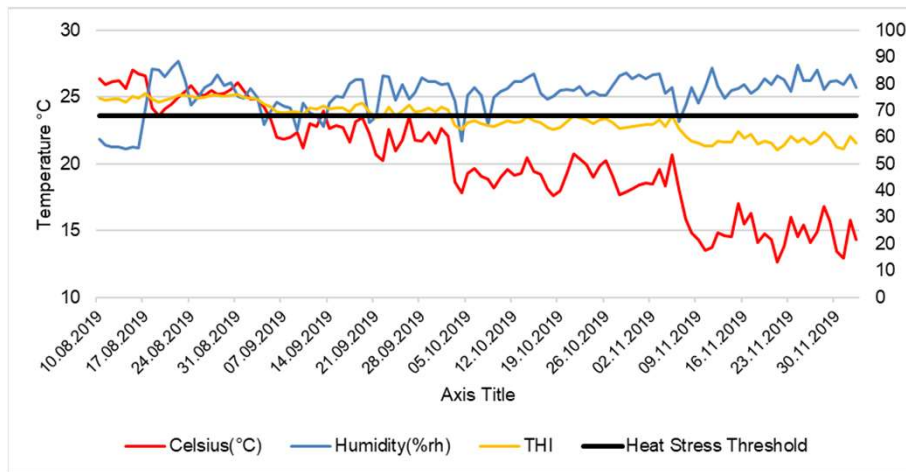
### Experimental site and design:

- 200 Holsteins dairy cows; average DIM 80; average lactation number: 2.6; average milk yield 42 kg
- Trial duration 12 weeks (from 05.09.2019 to 3.12.2019)
- Control group - no Levabon® and Levabon® group received 25 g/cow/day
- Diet: TMR ad libitum
  - 45.7% forage: corn silage, wheat silage, alfalfa hay, straw
  - 54.3% concentrate: soybean meal, CCM, corn, soybean hulls, cotton seeds, other concentrates
- Nutrients: crude protein (15.8 %), crude fat (3.7 %), NDF (35.0 %), ADF (21.7 %), starch (24.7 %)
- Parameters: milk yield and milk solids
- For statistical analysis 29 cows removed (dried off, culled) leaving Control group 92 cows; Levabon® group 79 cows

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## Environment conditions



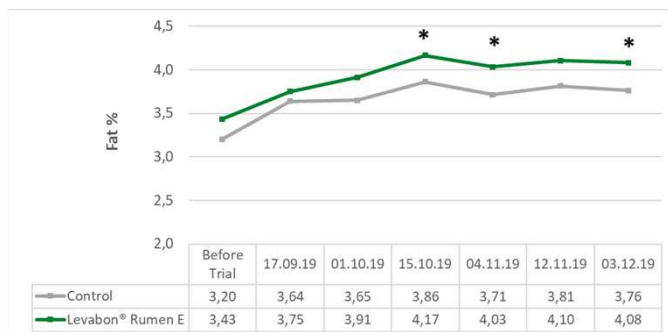
For both treatment groups CTL and LRE, THI was above the threshold of 68 for a total of 26 days during the first month of the experimental period (05.09.- 02.10.2020).

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## Results Performance

Levabon® Rumen E increases milk fat % in high yielding cows



|                   | Control | Levabon® | SEM  | Treatment P-value | Treatment x Time Interaction P-value |
|-------------------|---------|----------|------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ECM* yield (kg)   | 38,6    | 38,8     | 0,81 | 0,281             | 0,649                                |
| Milk fat (%)      | 3,74    | 4,01     | 0,09 | 0,439             | <b>0,031</b>                         |
| Milk fat (kg)     | 1,49    | 1,56     | 0,04 | 0,381             | 0,359                                |
| Milk protein (%)  | 3,22    | 3,27     | 0,03 | 0,410             | 0,257                                |
| Milk protein (kg) | 1,29    | 1,26     | 0,03 | 0,383             | 0,638                                |
| Fat/Protein Ratio | 1,17    | 1,27     | 0,03 | 0,974             | 0,373                                |

Figure 1: Milk fat % as affected by dietary treatment over a trial period of 12 weeks. \* indicate significance at P<0.05.

\*ECM was correct for 4,0% fat and 3,3%

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## ECM for 4 % and 3.3 % protein

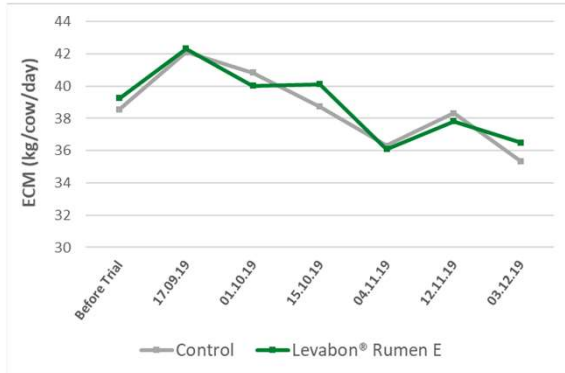


Figure 2: Energy Corrected Milk (ECM) yield as affected by dietary treatment over a trial period of 12 weeks.

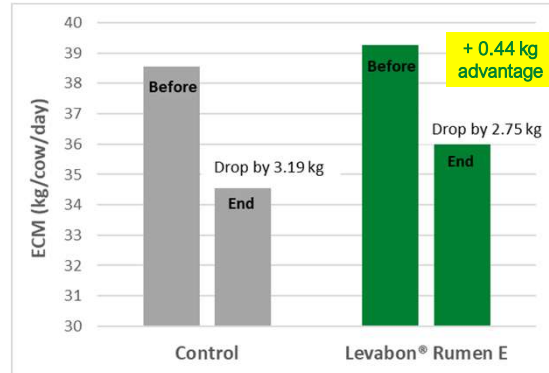


Figure 3: ECM drop as affected by dietary treatment over a trial period of 12 weeks

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## Fat yield and casein %

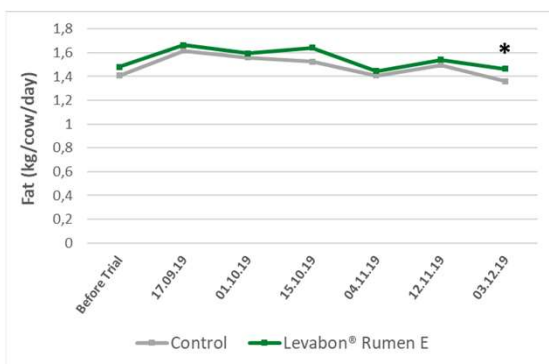


Figure 8: Fat yield as affected by dietary treatment over a trial period of 12 weeks. \* indicate significance at P<0.05.

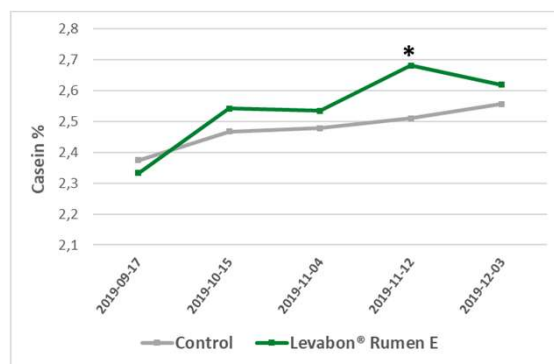


Figure 9: Casein % as affected by dietary treatment over a trial period of 12 weeks. \* indicate significance at P<0.05.

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## Conclusion

Levabon® Rumen E treated cows had:

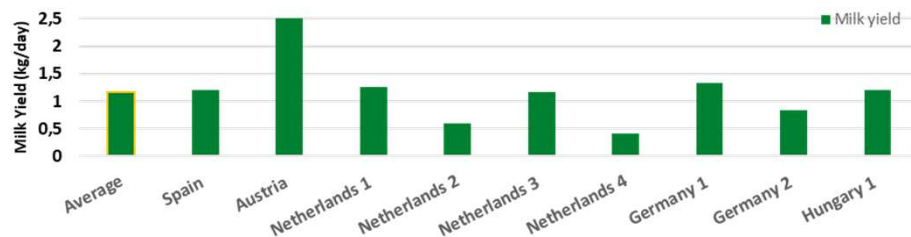
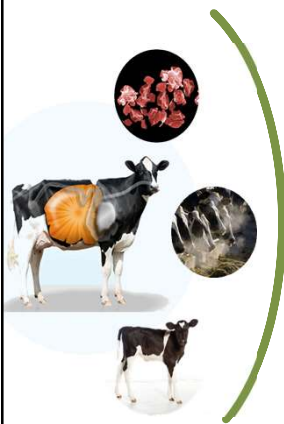
- Milk fat % significantly higher during the trial, on average by 7%
- Casein % tended to be higher (significant at one point), important parameter for the cheese industry
- Trend of greater persistence of ECM milk production of 0.44 kg/cow (P=0.10) due to the relatively higher milk fat concentration (P<0.05).
- Ideal ratio of fat % and protein % (1.27), showing higher rumen efficiency, optimal fermentation → less likelihood of metabolic diseases
- Economic benefits in average over trial period ROI 2.4

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## Increase of milk yield with Levabon® Rumen E

Consistent increase of milk yield in high-producing dairy herds



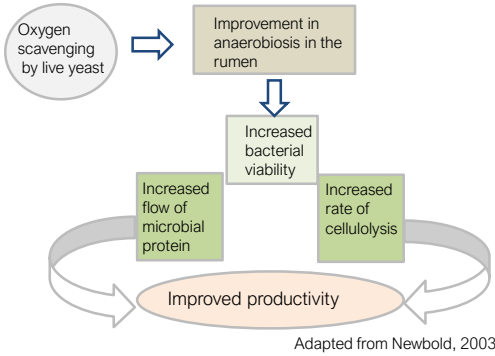
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## Levabon® Rumen E – Competitor Live Yeast

| Competitor                    | Differentiation of Competitor         | Elements of Counter-Argumentation  |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| Live Yeast (e.g. Levucell SC) | probiotic MoA<br>lower price/head/day | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>different MoA - no quantifiable bioactive compounds</li> <li>shorter shelf life</li> <li>survival in final feed challenge, pelleting only at certain °C?</li> </ul> |



40% samples failed to meet guaranteed cfu

Table 2. Colony-forming units observed upon receipt in samples of commercial active dry yeast products (experiment 1)

| Product        | Season acquired | Yeast viability, cfu/g  | Mean ± SEM, log <sub>10</sub> cfu/g | Geometric mean, cfu/g (% of guarantee) |
|----------------|-----------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| A              | Spring          | 2.15 × 10 <sup>10</sup> | 8.78 ± 0.78                         | 6.04 × 10 <sup>9</sup> (242)           |
|                | Summer          | 6.83 × 10 <sup>9</sup>  |                                     |  |
| B <sup>2</sup> | Spring          | 4.70 × 10 <sup>9</sup>  | 8.87 ± 0.69                         | 7.38 × 10 <sup>8</sup> (—)             |
|                | Summer          | 6.10 × 10 <sup>9</sup>  |                                     |  |
| C              | Spring          | 3.62 × 10 <sup>10</sup> | 9.60 ± 1.07                         | 3.97 × 10 <sup>9</sup> (79)            |
|                | Summer          | 2.93 × 10 <sup>10</sup> |                                     |  |
| D              | Spring          | 5.87 × 10 <sup>10</sup> | 7.63 ± 1.05                         | 4.26 × 10 <sup>7</sup> (21)            |
|                | Summer          | 3.04 × 10 <sup>9</sup>  |                                     |  |
| E              | Spring          | 7.33 × 10 <sup>9</sup>  | 12.08 ± 0.61                        | 1.21 × 10 <sup>12</sup> (8,052)        |
|                | Summer          | 3.47 × 10 <sup>10</sup> |                                     |  |
| F              | Spring          | 1.11 × 10 <sup>11</sup> | 9.43 ± 0.13                         | 2.71 × 10 <sup>8</sup> (123)           |
|                | Summer          | 1.43 × 10 <sup>12</sup> |                                     |  |
|                | Summer          | 3.77 × 10 <sup>9</sup>  |                                     |  |
|                | Summer          | 3.63 × 10 <sup>9</sup>  |                                     |  |

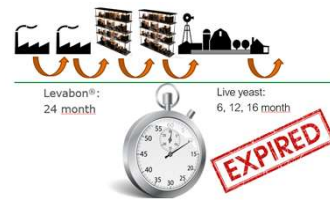
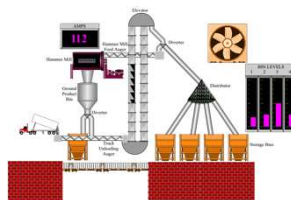
Sullivan and Bradford, 2011, J. Dairy Sci. 94: 526-531

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## Levabon® application

1. Easy to mix in TMR
2. Applicable in pelleted feeds and mineral premixes
3. Heat stable and long shelf life



**Dosage:**  
 Dairy cows: 15 – 25 g/animal/day  
 Beef cattle: 10 – 15 g/animal/day  
 Calves: 5 – 10 g/animal/day  
 Goat/sheep/other ruminant: 1-5 g/animal/day

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## Levabon® Rumen E



Levabon® Rumen E is a new generation of yeast product with enhanced prebiotic effect to optimize rumen function leading to improved feed efficiency, better animal welfare and higher productivity.

*Thank You!*

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## Questions & Answers



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