

Scholte-Nielink - over 1.000kg more milk in one year



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A better performance level, older cows, higher lifetime performance, and lower restocking rates. These were the goals they had set themselves when Frank and Tanja Scholte-Nielink decided a year ago to supplement the ration of their already high-performing Holstein herd with the micronutrient product 'DAIRY PROTECT'. The effects of using micronutrients from the Swiss company HOKOVIT became apparent after just a few months. An annual output that is up by 1000 kg, stable ingredients, better feed efficiency, healthier hooves and healthier cows. Sounds simple enough, doesn't it? And it is!



• • • • • TEXT: STEPHAN SCHNEIDER

Frank and Tanja Scholte-Nielink are passionate dairy farmers. Their well-maintained farm in Halle is home to a 100-head Holstein herd that is really something to behold. In 2019, they also achieved quite respectable numbers with an average annual output of 10.652kg 4.18% 3.40%. But on the 95-hectare farm in Grafschaft Bentheim, right on the Dutch border, they were still not entirely satisfied. "Our goal", explains Frank Scholte-Nielink, "was to stabilize the performance level of the herd and to further boost lifetime performance. We wanted to reduce the restocking rate while maintaining the same performance, based on healthier and older cows". Of course, Frank was aware that health and performance are closely linked to balanced feeding. However, he first had to learn that the trick to producing healthier and better performing cows was a balanced mix of micronutrients. But this is a concept that works. By now,

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Within one year, the Scholte-Nielinks improved the herd's performance by more than 1000 kg thanks to the addition of DAIRY PROTECT, while maintaining the same ingredients.



HOKOVIT micronutrients are also fed to young cattle. The result: healthier animals and higher growth rates.

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the herd yields on average 3 (!!) kg more per cow per day, with an average lactation yield of 11,713 kg 4.15% 3.47%.

HEALTH

The advice to supplement the ration with DAIRY PROTECT and thus achieve the goals that Frank Scholte-Nielink had set for his herd came from Heinz-Gerd Hemmeke. The feeding consultant has been working with Scholte-Nielink for a long time. However, his commitment to also include HOKOVIT products in his advice was what prompted an experiment that simply could not fail. The Swiss company HOKOVIT has been researching and developing products in the field of animal nutrition for 50 years. Its expertise in the field of immunity-building, digestion-regulating and stress-reducing micronutrients is unrivaled in the world. The product DAIRY PROTECT, which was developed especially for dairy cattle farming, describes HOKOVIT's core competence in dairy cattle nutrition based on its different yeast extract fractions and their special mixing ratio.

"The addition of DAIRY PROTECT to the ration stimulates in the intestine the growth of the flora of lactic acid and bifidus bacteria that are desirable in the digestive tract," explains Heinz-Gerd Hemmeke. "Ultimately, we manage to stabilize rumen pH, stimulate rumen villus growth, relieve the liver and the overall metabolism by binding excess ammonium, and achieve significantly improved feed conversion as well as nutrient absorption through a healthier intestinal flora."

RETURN OF INVESTMENT

The results that Frank Scholte-Nielink can see from the precise input and output documentation for his dairy farm can be measured not only in terms of increased output. "In fact," he says, "we find that the health of the cows has improved in general, but also specifically in the hooves. The improvement in feed conversion has meant that not only have we been able to achieve higher output, but we've even been able to save on concentrates." And what about the costs? "The cost of DAIRY PROTECT," explains Heinz-Gerd Hemmeke, "is 17 cents per cow and day. If we compare the increase in performance per cow of 3 kg per day to an average milk price of 33 cents, we achieve a return on investment of 1:6 thanks to DAIRY PROTECT. This positive financial effect, in addition to the many physiological benefits in terms of health, metabolic stability and increased performance, is one of the main reasons why DAIRY PROTECT is now being used more and more, not only in Grafschaft Bentheim, but by dairy farmers in many parts of Europe." ■