

What you need to know about probiotics.

Probiotics are live microorganisms that benefit the animal when consumed. Common probiotics used in ruminant diets include live yeast and live bacteria.

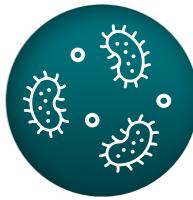
How do live yeast work?

Live yeast improve rumen health and efficiency in three main ways:



OPTIMIZE Rumen Environment

- Take up excess oxygen so rumen is more hospitable
- Stabilize rumen pH to help reduce acidosis



ENHANCE Rumen Microbiome

- Establish microbiome earlier
- Shift microbial populations towards fiber digesters and lactic acid utilizers



BOOST Rumen Activity

- Source of micronutrients
- Increase microbial growth which increases protein and VFA production

How do live bacteria work?

Live bacteria have several modes of action that impact gastrointestinal health and immune system function:



FORTIFY The Microbiome

- Modify microbial population in gut towards good bacteria
- Increase nutrient digestion and absorption



FIGHT Against Pathogens

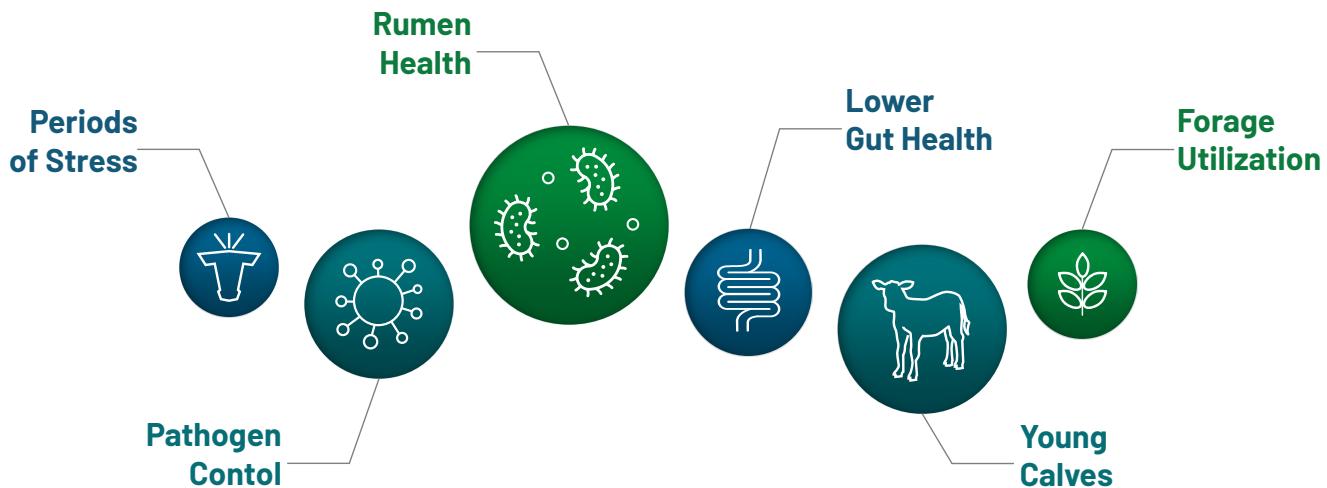
- Produce antimicrobial substances and alter gene expression of pathogens
- Outcompete pathogenic bacteria



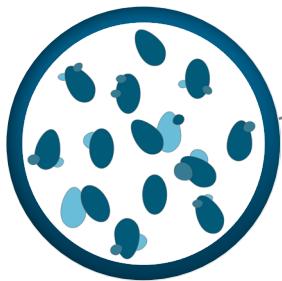
SUPPORT Overall Health

- Modify the immune system to make it more effective
- Reduce leaky gut by supporting gut barrier integrity

When should probiotics be used?

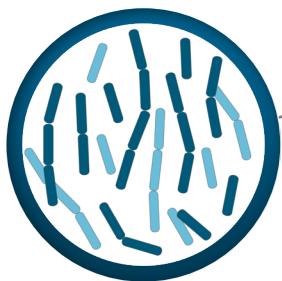


What are typical responses?



Live Yeast

- Improved dry matter intake
- Improved milk yield
- Improved milk fat



Live Bacteria

- Improved milk yield and components
- Improved dry matter intake
- Improved feed efficiency
- Disease reduction

How do you select a probiotic?

1. Review bacterial strains and colony forming units (CFU). Strains can have different modes of action in the animal.
2. Understand the probiotic selection process. A company should have a comprehensive strain selection process.
3. Look for data on probiotic mode of action. A good probiotic will support the animal in a variety of ways.
4. Look for data in animals facing stressors. They should cope more effectively than those not fed a probiotic.