

## Stabilising the rumen naturally with oregano

Phytogenic feed supplements with oregano have proven to be effective for preventing and treating hyperacidity in the rumen of dairy cows caused by concentrated feed (acidosis). Companies such as Dostofarm offer herbal preparations in powder form to be added to the feed. The added flavour causes the animals to produce more saliva and thus sodium bicarbonate — a substance that increases the pH-value in the rumen, neutralising excess gastric acid.

Hyperacidity in the rumen is a common problem when high milk yields and weight gain are required. The symptoms of affected rumen mucosa are often not directly perceptible. Typical signs are a lack of appetite and abnormal faeces, flatulence, sores and decreased fertility.

There are no known problems with resistance to phyto-supplements, and they do not affect the flavour of the animal products.

A welcome side effect is that when it is added to the total mix ration, the preparations reduce heating and improper fermentation of the feed. Thus, the oregano supplement is a simple but effective measure to reduce costs.

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