

RUMITECH: THE FACTS



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Methane is 30 times more effective at trapping heat in the earth's atmosphere than CO₂. However, it only stays in the atmosphere for around 10 years compared to CO₂, which sticks around for over 200 years. This means that reducing methane is the quickest way in which we can slow down global warming in the short term.

At Harbro we have an additive which was originally produced to enhance animal performance, which is being used extensively across beef, sheep and dairy supply chains which also has the added benefit of being Carbon Trust assured to reduce methane emissions.

We've put together some answers to the most common questions we get about Rumitech, to help in the decision making process.

What is it?

Rumitech is our unique feed additive made from a blend of natural essential oils.

How does it work?

Very simply, Rumitech works by altering which rumen microbes (bugs) thrive. This has two effects:

1. Less bugs which produce methane. This means methane emissions are reduced and the animal saves energy on belching.
2. More bugs which digest fibre. This means we get more energy out of the feed.

Ultimately, Rumitech allows the animal to get **more energy from the same feed**. In turn, this improves feed conversion ratio (FCR) which improves the farmers' bottom line.

Why should I use it?

Trial results have shown consistently that FCR is improved by 10% when animals are supplemented with Rumitech. This means the cost of production is reduced, as animals need to eat less feed to gain the same liveweight.

A recent trial with beef cattle showed Rumitech altered the lean to fat ratio and animals fed Rumitech had an increase in loin eye muscle area.

What's unique about it?

There are three unique points about Rumitech which make it good for animals, the farmer and the environment:

1. The rumen doesn't re-adapt. Long term trials have shown the rumen bugs aren't able to convert back, meaning the results are long lasting. This is unique to Rumitech.
2. Carbon Trust assured*. Rumitech was the first additive on the market to gain Carbon Trust assurance.
3. Improves animal performance. There are additives on the market which have good evidence of reducing methane emissions, however Rumitech has the added benefit of improving feed conversion ratio, which

in turn consistently delivers return on investment.

When should I use it?

Rumitech can be fed to cattle and sheep at any stage of production and incorporated into any diet: grazing, forage based rations or ad-lib cereal systems. It can also be used in pedigree cattle and sheep diets to enhance loin eye muscle area and promote feed efficiency.

It is available across our ranges of compound feeds, blends, protein concentrates and powdered minerals as standard.

How much does it cost?

Rumitech is very inexpensive. Typically less than 2 pence per head per day when included in finishing cattle minerals or concentrates. Experience of feeding Rumitech on farm tells us that because feed efficiency is improved, overall margin is improved also.

Find out more...

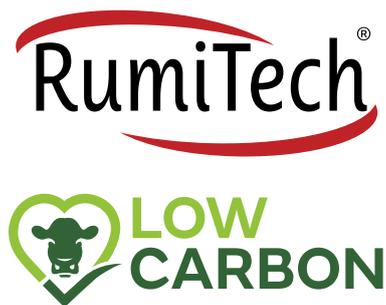
Find out how you can introduce Rumitech into your system and how other farmers are achieving success feeding it, turn over to find out more...

*In the Carbon Trust's opinion, correct use of Rumitech can reduce methane emissions in dairy and beef cattle and sheep.

WINTER DIETS

Our winter diets are suitable for all production systems and have the following benefits:

- Reduce cost/kg gain
- Improve feed conversion ratio
- Improve DLWG
- Increase frame growth
- Options for animals in soya-free systems



Speak to your Harbro specialist for a winter diet plan and to find out how to introduce Rumitech into your diets. Or email farming@harbro.co.uk.

CONCENTRATES WITH RUMITECH

Mixing concentrates with your grain is a cost effective way to maximise raw materials and animal performance.

Champion Rumitech 35 is our most popular concentrate with proven results from animals across a variety of systems.

The benefit of feeding fully mineralised concentrates is that you can mix them with your home grown or locally sourced cereals and tailor diets to your stage of production.



Matthew Brown improves killing out percentage in Yorkshire.

COMPOUNDS WITH RUMITECH

We have a range of cattle compounds and blends containing Rumitech. Our biggest sellers are **Beefstock** and **Elitestock**, which include a quality mineral package and high levels of energy and starch.

The benefits of feeding compounds is that you have a finished product ready to feed to cattle at all stages of production.



Daryn Redford reports additional income of £150/head in Glenfarg.

MINERALS WITH RUMITECH

We have a range of powdered minerals with Rumitech included as standard. Feeding the correct mineral is a cost effective and simple way to supplement home grown or locally sourced cereals to maximise performance.



Beef Max minerals reduce cost/kg gain.

MIXING SUSTAINABLE DIETS

Our fleet of Superbruisers and FeedMobiles can process your cereals to create finished diets using Harbro concentrates, blends and minerals allowing you to make sustainable, low cost high performance rations.

The service is quick and clean and rates are competitive.

Call us to find out if we operate in your area.



Based at Lochelbank Farm in Glenfarg, Daryn Redford has been feeding **Beefstock nuts** to his Angus calves since he switched from a competitor product around four years ago.

“When I first looked at Beefstock, it was a lot dearer than the feed I’d been on before, but I knew I wanted a change and hoped I could push the calves on more so we went for it.”

“In that first year I introduced the pellets from 4-5 months old and took them right through on it. I sold two months earlier and was delighted with the performance. On average the calves were 70kg heavier than the year before which amounted to an **additional income of around £150/head.**” In previous years I’d struggled to get weaned at 300kg. This year I weaned 123 calves and only 20 weren’t over the 300kg mark.

“This last year they were fed with Beefstock nuts through weaning and then went on to a winter ration that included Maxammon barley. Their performance has been phenomenal, again they were sold 2 months earlier with an average weight of 430kg. When the first one came through at 494kg I was astounded and still delighted at the average of 430.



Due to the excellent weight gain, I’ve not had to keep as many back as grazing stock, last year I kept 66 and this year that number reduced to 14.

Apart from the weights and finishing earlier, the calves look great as well, **they really shine and blossom on the feed.**

Achieving these results with my Angus stock has given me more confidence to get back into continental breeds and this year I’ve introduced a Simmental bull to the herd and I’m looking forward to the results.



Champion Beast at Malton Summer Fat Stock Show



Matthew Brown has been successfully using **Champion Rumitech 35** to finish cattle at Rock Farm, near Bridlington, Yorkshire since 2014.

“The product works well for me, the pellet form is easier for the cattle to eat, it leaves a great coat with lovely shine on them and they look fit.” says Mr Brown. “It gives a **nice covering of fat, finishing them to a high standard.**” he added.

He finishes 150-160 British Blue crosses and Limousin crosses annually, purchasing at eight to 12 months and selling at 550-600kg through the live market.

Matthew initially runs them on an introductory diet of silage, rolled barley and Rumitech 35 for two to three months which lets them get used to this type of feed before they progress to the finishing ration.

Using the same system now for over five years, the finishing ration of rolled wheat, rolled barley with Rumitech 35 is fed ad lib through the hopper. Alkacid is added to this diet to combat laminitis which can be an issue when pushing cattle to finish.

Mr Brown uses his eyes and experience to gauge when cattle are ready for market and it isn’t often he is wrong, with cattle **achieving the top trade at Malton** most weeks. His local butcher at Whitby – who tries to buy them every week - has commented that he likes the cattle and they kill out well.



Drew and Margaret Wilson from Hagmuir Farms in Forfar finish 900 head of cattle a year feeding Maxammon treated barley with our **Beef Max** mineral.

The Wilsons feel that a TMR based on top quality silage with additional Maxammon barley and minerals gives them a healthy and consistent ration that enables them to finish faster.

Margaret said:

“We are looking for a minimum of 1.5kg in DLWG and often get over 2kg which I think is extraordinary.”

Our **Beef Max** mineral has been designed to support intensively fed growing and finishing cattle and maximises the performance of animals being fed with Maxammon treated cereals.

Trial results

Trial results show the impact of feeding Beef Max when compared to a standard mineral, with both groups fed the same ration apart from the mineral.

| | Standard Mineral | Harbro Mineral | % Difference |
|--|------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Number of Young Bulls | 32 | 39 | |
| Daily LWG (kg/hd/d) | 1.67 | 1.77 | +5.8% |
| Feed Intake (kg/head/day) | 11.7 | 9.8 | -16% |
| Feed Conversion Ratio (kg Feed/kg LWG) | 6.98 | 5.5 | -21% |
| Cost (£/kg LWG) | £1.17 | £0.96 | -18% |

SPRING CALVING COW WINTER CHECKLIST ✓

David McCartney, Harbro Beef & Sheep Specialist

In any production system, it is important management and nutrition are complementary, to ensure cows are in best condition, fit and ready for calving in the spring. With the weather starting to change, now is the time to analyse forage, assess feed stock levels, order minerals and put together winter feed plans for suckler cows. The following checklist can be used to help with planning.



At housing/weaning:

- ✓ Split cows by body condition and age. First calvers, second calvers and leaner cows should be penned and fed separately to help improve body condition quickly.
- ✓ If outwintering is an option, consider housing the more vulnerable cows and utilise outwintering on the older, fitter cows. Out-wintered cows should have access to a dry lying area and shelter.
- ✓ Try to keep social groups stable, have plenty feed space, ensure stocking density is acceptable and minimise dead ends in passages and walkways.
- ✓ Get grass silage and other forages analysed, so you and your feed advisor can tweak rations to ensure maintenance requirements are met.
- ✓ Keep checking cows eat the recommended amount. If cows eat less, they may not consume enough energy to meet demand and be at risk of negative energy balance. If they eat more, the over-supply may lead to body condition gain, big calves and calving problems.
- ✓ Take advantage of a conversation with your vet. Are all the vaccination and treatment needs being met? Consider testing dung to check if fluke and/or worm treatment is required.
- ✓ Supplement diets with a good quality mineral. The Harbro two step suckler cow mineral programme is really cost effective and has been designed to meet the needs of cows across the country.

Pre-calving:

- ✓ Change mineral to Super Suckler SEC to boost trace element supply at this most important time of the production cycle.
- ✓ Consider supplying additional by-pass protein to cows and heifers four weeks before calving, to boost colostrum quality, calf immunity and performance.

After calving:

- ✓ Increase energy density and protein supply to allow cows to reach peak lactation, repair from calving, regain body condition and get onto a rising plane of nutrition ahead of bulling.
- ✓ Where possible, keep first calved heifers separate from the main herd, to allow them space to feed without having to compete with larger, stronger cows.

HARBRO TWO STEP SUCKLER COW MINERAL PROGRAMME

Working Suckler as a powdered mineral from housing until 6 weeks before calving. A cost effective mineral pack to maintain cows throughout the winter.

Super Suckler SEC as a powdered mineral or mineral lick from 6 weeks pre-calving, through to calving, to bulling and then throughout the summer while grazing. A high specification, market leading mineral pack designed to further boost cow mineral levels through calving and into bulling.



Key features include:

- Designed to complement high forage diets and optimise rumen function
- Sel-Plex, an organic form of selenium, essential for cow health, immunity, colostrum quality and calf vigour
- High levels of chelated zinc and copper, promote calf development/boost fertility
- Multiple sources of magnesium to optimise absorption and utilisation, to reduce the risk of grass staggers

On farm success

Leslie Craik, Waterside Farm, Haugh of Urr

Leslie has a 75 head suckler herd, comprising of mainly pure Limousins. Although the cows have been on Harbro minerals for some time, last year the herd moved on to the Harbro 2 stage suckler programme, starting with Working Suckler over the winter months. Six weeks prior to calving the cows then went on to Super Suckler powdered minerals, with free access given to Super Suckler SEC licks when they were turned out to grass.

“Cows calving fine and cleansing properly and no problems with milk.”

“I’ve been using Harbro minerals at Waterside for around 10 years and we’ve always had good PD results. This year our bulling was 100%, with tight calvings, cows calving fine and cleansing properly and no problems with milk.”