

Lin-Pro Testimonial

My name is Brian Lindenbach. We operate BROYHILL HOLSTEINS near Balgonie; just east of Regina. We milk 85 cows in a tie stall/bedding pack barn. I have been asked to share our experience with Lin-pro (which is an extruded linseed meal with 20% flax oil as I understand).

During the winter of 2013/2014, our reproduction on our herd had reached a point where all we were doing was emptying the semen tank; but with minimal pregnancies as a result. Cows were bred on visual signs (which were not very many), estramate, ovsyn plus cidrsync. A bull was starting to look like the only alternative.

Production and milk composition were adequate but not high enough to have such an impact on the reproduction. We have had other times of poor repro, but never for this extended period of time. I also had the perception that the herd was "FLAT".

In April, after discussion with our veterinary (who by the way indicated that we were his most *unique herd* as far as reproduction went – but not in a good way).

During a consultation with our nutritionist, we tried to formulate a perspective as to the factors that were contributing to the poor reproduction.

- The winter was particularly harsh – but heifer repro was still normal.
- The feed analysis from the 2013 growing season was some of the best we had ever made.
- The muns were in the normal range.
- The vitamin/mineral package appeared to be adequate.
- We were using 2 different fat/energy sources simultaneously. Both were compatible with each other.

That conversation shifted to replacing one of the fat/energy sources with a product that would provide the adequate energy requirements for production and also a general overall wellness. Since "Lin-Pro" offered the energy source as well as the Omega 3 flax component; it reasoned that if Omega 3 was a positive dietary additive for humans, that it should have the same effects for cows.

At that time, Lin-Pro was slightly higher priced/ cow/day than the other energy sources. However, with the recent increase in price on palm oil, new calculations need to be done. We also checked out the stability of Lin-Pro during the hot months. All was good.

On May 03, 2014, Lin-Pro went into the ration at a rate of .7kg/cow/day. This is my text to our nutritionist on May 10th.

"Just to update you on Lin-Pro. The first batch was on May 03 – 1 week today. Intake has increased – refusal is 0%. Adam has increased the dry matter in the ration to a level we were unable to achieve all winter. 1.55 kg of BF/cow. Volume of milk has also increased. I know these are only preliminary results, but I like the direction things are going. Also, there has been a marked physiological change in how the cows view their world – they woke up."

Here are some of the changes that had occurred within the Broyhill herd since we began feeding the Lin-Pro. Remember, not all the credit can go directly to the product due to other changes both in feeding and in environment.

- The BCA for milk has gone up by 10 points.
- The BCA for BF and Protein combined has gone up by 21 points.
- In spite of the high DIM (due to poor repro) production persistency has been high, even though the summer and into the fall with the feed changes.
- Reproduction and pregnancy rates continue to improve – we have 23% of those affected cows calving in August/September. Those cows that have calved since May have a reduced rate of breeding/conception, than the ones that were in the system prior to the initial change to Lin-Pro
- We are currently feeding Lin-Pro at a rate of .85kg/cow/day.
- Broyhill will continue to use Lin-Pro in our dairy ration. We are looking at other areas of the herd and checking out the benefits that may be obtained in the “close-up cows” and the “breeding heifer”.

Respectfully Submitted

Brian Lindenbach