



Bentonite- simple, low cost and natural solution to acidosis!

Feedlotter JALNA near Anakie Victoria have become strong proponents of the use of sodium bentonite to resolve problems with acidosis.

Manager David Gillett says that prior to using bentonite as a standard feed inclusion it was not uncommon to see 2-3 animals per pen showing symptoms of acidosis. This now occurs rarely.

Bentonite was first included in addition to molasses and monensin to combat the problem. A little later it was decided to remove the monensin with surprisingly no effect on growth rate and, importantly, no signs of acidosis.

The manure consistency improved and is lighter in colour and easier to handle.

They also believe mortality has decreased and there are obviously less cattle to care for in the sick pen.

Most of their cattle are custom fed over 70 days for domestic clients. With cattle being expensive, custom feeding contractors are seeking lower costs and bentonite certainly provides this benefit.

Bentonite is applied via their feed mill and is usually included at the rate of 4% as a bulk, easy to handle, ingredient.

The product is sourced in bulk loads from Arumpo Bentonite who are based in Mildura. Arumpo can ship either in 25 Kg bags, bulka bags or in bulk and are in easy reach of users in SA, Vic and NSW.

The company has registered the product with the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) "*allowing for the adaptation to high concentrate diets and assisting in the prevention of acidosis in sheep and cattle. It also guards against the affect of aflotoxins in contaminated grain inadvertently fed to stock*".

Arumpo Bentonite is proud of the purity and quality of its product and maintains ISO 9001 certification. It has one of the purist bentonite deposits in the world.

Arumpo Bentonite is a completely natural product and is registered with the National Association for Sustainable Agriculture of Australia (NASAA) as an organic agricultural ingredient. This is a real plus as consumers are increasingly interested in natural products.

"Bentonite works and saves our clients money", concludes David Gillett.

