

## **Rumensin® Approved for Dairy Cows**

by Donna M. Amaral-Phillips

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved the addition of rumensin® as a feed ingredient for lactating and dry dairy cows. This is the first “feed additive” that has been approved by FDA to increase the amount of milk produced per pound of feed consumed. (Milk production was measured as marketable solids-corrected milk per unit of feed intake.) In nine studies conducted by Elanco, rumensin® was shown to increase the efficiency of producing milk by 2 to 4%. These nine studies showed that dry matter intake was maintained when cows were in early lactation (and negative energy balance) and may decrease once energy balance was achieved. Over the entire trial, milk production was not different among treatments except at the highest dose of rumensin (22 g/ton). Milk fat percent was shown to decrease over the control treatment, however milk fat yield did not change. Rumensin can be added to the total diet at the rate of 11 to 22 g/ton of total feed dry matter. Elanco has calculated that the addition of rumensin results in a 5:1 return throughout the lactation cycle.

## **Rumensin Approved for Use in Grain Mixes for Milking and Dry Cows**

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The FDA recently approved the inclusion of Rumensin in grain mixes fed to milking and dry cows whether they are fed grain through a parlor, computer feeding system, topdressed or as part of a total mixed ration. Originally, the FDA only approved the use of Rumensin in total mixed rations for milking and dry dairy cows. Research has shown that Rumensin improves milk production efficiency or amount of milk produced per unit of feed intake by 2 to 4%.