Addressing lameness in group housed sows  
L. Boyle, A. Quinn, J. Calderon-Diaz, P. Lawlor, A. Kilbride and L. Green  475

Preventing lameness in group housed sows  
H.M. Vermeer and I. Vermeij  475

Willingness to walk for a food reward in lame and non-lame sows  

Sow group housing: general discussion  
A. Velarde  476

**Session 39a. Industry session: feed additives; impact on health and performance in livestock**

Date: 28 August 2013; 14:00 – 15:45 hours  
Chairperson: Auclair

### Theatre Session 39a

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Effect of a patented combination of plant extracts on piglets' performance</td>
<td>477</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G. Benzoni, J.M. Laurent, D. Coquil, A. Morel and M.L. Le Ray</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Feed additives may play a role on animal Welfare?  
J. Brufau, R. Lizardo and B. Vila  477

Feed additives regulation and assessment in the EU: past, present and future  
D. Jans  478

Modification of gut microflora in rainbow trout using live yeast  
P. Tacon, M. McLoughlin, S. Doherty, K. Maxwell, P. Savage, E. Pinloche and E. Auclair  478

Use of new molecular biology techniques for the evaluation of zootechnical additives  
C.J. Newbold  479

### Poster Session 39a

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Effect of feed additives on rumen pH and protozoa count of cattle fed abruptly high concentrate diet</td>
<td>479</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.A. Zotti, J.C.M. Nogueira Filho, R. Carvalho, A.P. Silva, T. Brochado and P.R. Leme</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Studying effect of adding different level of turmeric to NRC on performance & broilers chick quality  
K.H. Ghazvinian, A. Mahdavi, M.S. Ghodrati, B. Roozbehan, M.A. Reisdanai and P. Kazeminejad  480

Acid Buf as natural alternative to monensin in beef feedlot diets  
L.J. Erasmus, F.M. Hogg, R.H. Van der Veen, E. Haasbroek and S. Taylor  480

Effect of level of Natuzyme® on methane production in diets with various forage sources  
M. Danesh Mesgaran, E. Parand, A. Faramarzi Garmroodi and A. Vakili  481

Effect of a combination of plant extracts on milk persistency and somatic cell counts of dairy cows  
C. Gerard and M.L. Le Ray  481

Assessment of microorganisms as zootechnical feed additives in the European Union  
R. Brozzi, C. Roncancio Peña and J. Galobart  482

EAAP – 64th Annual Meeting, Nantes 2013  73
Session 39a

Effect of level of Natuzyme® on methane production in diets with various forage sources
M. Danesh Mesgaran, E. Parand, A. Faramarzi Garmroodi and A. Vakili
 Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, Mashhad, College of Agriculture, Department of Animal Science, 0098, Iran; danesh@um.ac.ir

This experiment aimed to investigate the effects of level of Natuzyme® (Bioproton Co.) on in vitro gas production (GP, ml/200 mg DM), dry matter disappearance (IVDMD) methane production (MET, ml/200 mg OM) at half time (t1/2) of gas production. Approximately, 200 mg (OM) of each diet was weighted in a 125 ml serum bottle, while 24 h prior to incubation each bottle received 0.84, 1.68 and 2.52 g/kg DM of the enzyme (E1, E2 and E3, respectively) in an aqueous suspension to maintain same moisture content (40%). Data=3 and n=3. The gas production procedure was followed by pipetting buffered rumen fluid into the bottles and incubated at 38.6 °C for desired intervals. In a pre-trail, pressure of gas was recorded at 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 24, 48, 72 and 96 h of incubation. Pressure data was converted to volume using an experimental curve and modeled to estimate t1/2. Main trail incubation was continued until t1/2 and volumes of GP and ME, and residual OM was measured. Data were analyzed as 3×2 factorial arrangement in a completely randomized design. Results showed that E1 compared with E2 had higher FE (6.77 vs. 5.59), less GP (33.68 vs. 35.71) and MET (9.20 vs. 10.87), (P<0.05). In addition, both E2 and E3 compared with E1 had significantly (P<0.05) higher GP (36.70 and 36.75 vs. 30.63) and MET (10.81 and 10.39 vs. 8.91). The IVDMD was significantly (P<0.05) higher in E3 than those of the E1 and E2 (33.90 vs. 27.90 and 28.40, respectively). It seems that combination of improved IVDMD and FE using E3 comparing with E1 and E2 could be advantageous but the outcome can vary considering type and forage content of diet.

Session 39a

Effect of a combination of plant extracts on milk persistency and somatic cell counts of dairy cows
C. Gerard1 and M.L. Le Ray2
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For dairy cows, total milk production per lactation is largely dependent on the shape of the lactation curve, which can be described through 2 main parameters: peak yield and milk persistency after the peak. These parameters are mostly negatively correlated. Hence, finding nutritional strategies improving milk persistency could be a way to enhance productivity of dairy herds. In this context, the specific supply of a plant extracts combination was tested on 24 (control) + 24 (supplemented) dairy Holstein cows (average milk production =30 kg/day) fed with a diet composed of 48% corn silage, 35% pasture, and 17% complete feed. Most of the cows had passed the lactation peak at the beginning of the trial (average Days in Milk =101). Comparisons of milk production data were done through ANOVA, data of milk somatic cell counts (SCC) were analysed through the Chi² method, after classification of the samples in 4 groups according to their SCC level. The results showed a statistically relevant higher average milk production for the supplemented group (+0.6 kg/day), essentially linked to a strong higher milk production (+2.3 kg/day) observed for the highest producing cows (initial milk production over 30 kg). Even if milk fat and milk protein contents were slightly lower for the supplemented group, total milk protein and fat exportations were not affected by the plant extracts supply. When only the highest producing cows were considered, milk protein production was even slightly enhanced (+4%). In terms of SCC, the proportion of milk samples containing more than 250,000 SCC was significantly lower for the supplemented group (9 vs. 30% for the control group) during the trial period. This trial showed that the use of specific plant extracts could improve milk production through an enhancement of milk persistency after the peak, especially for high producing cows, and could have beneficial effects on milk SCC levels.