

RUMEN ACIDOSIS WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON DIAGNOSTIC ASPECTS OF SUBCLINICAL RUMEN ACIDOSIS: A REVIEW

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Summary. Increased genetic potential for high milk yield and economic increased benefits in feeding rations high in starch, may increase the occurrence of rumen acidosis in Danish dairy herds. Together with enhanced focus on nutritional production diseases in recent years, the demand for professional knowledge and advisory work is substantial. The present paper reviews rumen acidosis, its etiology, pathogenesis, occurrence, significance, diagnostics and prophylaxis with special attention to Subclinical Rumen Acidosis (SRA). Details of the rumenocentesis procedure for obtaining rumen fluid are presented together with original observations on rumen pH determinations performed on such samples compared to samples obtained by stomach tube. Differences and similarities between the subclinical and the acute form are illustrated. Our understanding of fundamental parts of pathogenesis, significance and diagnostic of set is still insufficient. It appears that the resulting metabolic acidosis is best reflected in urine. Most other suggested diagnostic parameters lack evidence of usefulness under practical conditions. Adjustments of suboptimal feeding and management routines are believed to be essential prophylactic steps.

Keywords: cattle, rumen, subclinical acidosis.