



Device may lower cell counts in milk

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BALTIMORE, Md. — A study conducted in Switzerland indicates a unique device hung in dairy barns improved the quality of milk from cows by reducing the cell count in both the individual milk samples as well as the bulk tank samples. “We found that the Geowave helps improve the immune system of humans, so we wanted to find out what it can do in veterinary medicine,” stated Gerhard W. Hacker, a molecular scientist at the Federal University Clinics of Salzburg, Austria who conducted the research together with Linda Furter, Veterinary Medical University of Zurich, Switzerland.

The Geowave device has been used in European countries for more than 12 years to produce a harmonizing and stress-reducing environment for humans. According to Hacker, the Geowave is a “specially engineered piece of corrugated metal alloy with a unique surface treatment, shape and metal composition.”

The study was conducted from January to April at two dairy farms near Zurich. The Geowave was used in three consecutive on and off periods of three weeks each. “We tested several parameters including the melatonin concentration, the milk cell count and the cortisol metabolic products in feces,” Hacker stated. “After three weeks with the Geowave, there was improved milk quality due to significantly lower cell counts.”

Melatonin is a hormone produced by the pineal gland. “Melatonin is important to influence the day and night rhythms – it needs to be high in the night and low in the day time,” the researcher explained. “It affects the immune system, acts as an antioxidant, and there is increasing evidence that it positively influences milk quality and milk volume.”

Mike Hutjens, University of Illinois extension dairy specialist, said he is unaware of the Geowave device. "I would need to see journal published research and work done in the U.S., before I could make a recommendation about it," he said. Geoff Dahl, chair of the department of animal science at the University of Florida, is also unfamiliar with the Geowave. "Melatonin has some antioxidant properties that are thought to improve the immune status," he said. "I would like to see the paper about the study to see how they did the study," Dahl added. "Typically it is difficult to do controlled studies on farms that are designed appropriately and I would want to know if the changes are due to the product or something else."

Furter and Hacker plan to publish their study, once they finish gathering all the data. "I would like to continue this work in the U.S. so I'm searching for a place to do research," Hacker added. "Several dairy farms have installed the device in barns including operations in Austria, Switzerland and Germany," the researcher stated.

The Geowave is now available in the U.S. from Geowave U.S.A. "This is the first time it's been introduced in the U.S.," said David Reeher, president of the company. "It is a pretty well known product in Europe, it is used in hospitals to help patients heal faster." There are no moving parts with the Geowave, but the surface of the device must be kept clean. "Through its reflection process, it has the ability to reduce stress, e.g. from the environment," Reeher added. "It's difficult to believe that it works, but it is amazing, and scientists don't know all the reasons why it works." Two sizes of the Geowave are available. "The medium size will cover 2,500 square feet and it costs, \$1,497," Reeher said. "The large size costs \$1,997 and its coverage is 5,000 square feet." Geowave U.S.A. offers a six-month guarantee for the device. "That's how well it works," Reeher stressed. For more information about the Geowave device, contact Geowave U.S.A at (866) 900-6091.

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