

Glossary and abbreviations

Terms in this glossary are defined in the context of their use in this manual.

A

acetate or acetic acid. A product of rumen digestion, produced in the main by cellulose-digesting bacteria; important in the production of milk fat.

acid detergent fibre or ADF. The less digestible or indigestible parts of the fibre; ie the cellulose and lignin only.

acidosis. An excessive increase in rumen acid caused by feeding too much grain or other starchy feeds or by introducing them into the diet too quickly.

ad libitum. Fed to appetite

Animal Production Level (APL). A measure of the level of performance of a cow calculated as the energy requirements expressed as a proportion of maintenance energy requirements.

amino acid. The building block of proteins; a cow requires 25 different amino acids for normal metabolic functioning.

appropriate technology. A term developed to describe practical solutions to problems that could be readily accepted hence undertaken by farmers, particularly traditional ones with minimal resources.

as-fed. Feed with its moisture still in it.

associative effects. Changes in utilisation of one feed type following supplementation with a second feed type, such as decreasing digestibility in forages with increasing supplementation with concentrates. This means that assuming additive effects of supplements can overestimate milk responses.

Australian Friesian Sahiwal (AFS). A tropically adapted dairy breed developed in Australia based on Friesian and Sahiwal.

Australian Milking Zebu (AMZ). A tropically adapted dairy breed developed in Australia based on Jersey and Red Sindhi.

B

body condition. Energy stored in body reserves by cows, predominantly as fat.

buffer. Body fluid (eg., saliva) or feed additive that reduces the acidity in the rumen.

butyrate or butyric acid. A product of rumen digestion of lesser importance in milk production than acetate and propionate.

bypass protein. See undegradable dietary protein.

C

°C. Degrees Celsius.

Ca. Calcium.

carbohydrates. The main source of energy in a cow's diet.

carnivore. Meat eater.

casein. Milk protein.