Webinar Summary: Finding the gaps & filling them for cow performance

This webinar covers key performance indicators (KPIs) and management strategies to optimise cow performance during early lactation. It highlights the interconnectedness of cow appetite, rumen and liver function, immune health, and nutritional supplements. Emphasis is placed on balancing these elements to maximise milk production and overall herd health.

In this webinar:

1. Early lactation KPIs
    - Focus on milk production, early cycling heats, immune system function, stable cow condition, and minimal lameness.
    - Gaps in any of these areas can impact overall cow performance.
2. Appetite and rumen management
    - Appetite is crucial for recovery post-calving and influences rumen health.
    - Managing the rumen's micro-ecosystem ensures proper digestion before nutrients reach the liver.
3. Liver function
    - The liver plays a key role in metabolising nutrients from the rumen, affecting milk production and cow health.
    - Issues in the liver often trace back to imbalances in the rumen.
4. Nutritional supplements
    - Proper calcium, minerals, and other supplements are necessary for both rumen stability and liver health.
    - Timing and consistency in feeding are vital to support the cow's metabolic needs.
5. Immune system and health indicators
    - Immune system health, measured through somatic cell counts and retained fetal membranes, is tied to nutritional management.
    - Adequate energy and calcium intake support immune function and recovery.
6. Monitoring milk solids and condition
    - Monitoring milk fat and protein percentages, as well as blood glucose and ketone levels, provides insight into the cow's energy balance.

- A stable cow condition supports optimal performance, reducing the risk of lameness and metabolic disorders.

7. Stress and consistency

- Minimising stress through consistent feeding and water availability reduces health risks and supports rumen stability.

For more detailed information, you can download the slide deck and watch the webinar recording.