

What are

Probiotics?

Animals “for life”

The word “probiotics” literally means “for life” and is the opposite of the word antibiotic. Probiotics are good bacteria that can help boost the levels of beneficial bacteria in the gut, whereas antibiotics attack and kill infections and unwanted bacteria. For animals, probiotics are more commonly referred to as direct fed microbials, or DFM’s.

Billions of Bacteria?

Every animal with a digestive system, including us, has bacteria in their digestive system. Without bacteria an animal could not digest food. Animals have an extremely complex collection of about 100 trillion microorganisms in their entire digestive tract. The intestine of animals contain billions of bacteria, some of which are beneficial (good bacteria), and some which are pathogenic (bad bacteria). Under certain conditions, such as stress, traveling, and antibiotic treatment, the natural balance of beneficial bacteria in the digestive system is disrupted. The number of pathogens increase while the number of beneficial organisms decrease, causing digestion upsets including diarrhea, constipation, and discomfort. In animals, DFM’s can restore the normal balance in the gut and improve the overall health of the animal.

Fun Fact

Newborn animals do not have bacteria in their intestine. The intestine rapidly becomes colonized by natural means from the mother and the environment. Studies have shown providing DFMs to an animal at birth plays an important role in the growth and health of animals.

Feed DFM’s to...

A variety of animal species including

dairy & beef cattle • calves • swine • sheep • goats • poultry • horses • dogs • cats • and other household pets

Have you Herd... Animals can get stressed!?!

The difference between humans and animals is very small when it comes to how stresses affect health and how to treat these problems. Just like humans, when under stress, animals may experience stomach problems such as diarrhea, constipation, and discomfort.

What kinds of stress do animals have?

- Environmental stress (cold & heat)
- Birthing
- Traveling
- Kenneling
- Vet visits/treatments
- Training
- Change in feed
- Change of environment

When should DFM’s be used?

The effectiveness of DFM’s depends on when they are used. The best response is observed during the following situations:

- Daily, many stressful situations can not be anticipated.
- Feedlot and stocker cattle
- Sick pen
- De-worming
- Hospital treatment
- Antibiotic therapy
- Decreased appetite
- Digestive disorders
- Incidences of diarrhea (scours)
- Pregnancy
- Birthing (freshening)
- Weaning and other diet changes
- Traveling
- Kenneling
- Intensive training
- Colic