

# Formulation Guidelines for Close-up Dry Cow Rations using Negative DCAD Balancing



**DCAD, mEq/100 g: -10 to -15 mEq/100 g DM** **[(Na + K) - (Cl + S)]**

**Adjust dietary DCAD until urine pH values range between 5.5 and 6.0.**

Test urine pH 6 to 9 hours postfeeding. Feed a minimum of 21 days prior to calving at a rate between 1.2 to 1.5 lbs (0.55 to 0.70 kg) per head daily. Feed continuously up to calving.

**Calcium:  $\geq$  180 g**

Feed a minimum of 180 g of calcium and not less than 1.5% DM calcium.

**Phosphorus:  $\geq$  45 g**

Feed a minimum of 45 g of phosphorus and not less than 0.38% DM phosphorus.

Other Mineral Nutrients	% Dry Matter	Grams/day <sup>1</sup>
Potassium	1.00 – 1.50	120 – 180
Magnesium	0.45 – 0.50	54 – 60
Sodium	0.10 – 0.20	12 – 24
Chloride	0.80 – 1.00	96 – 120
Sulfur	0.40 – 0.47	48 – 56

<sup>1</sup>Grams per day based on a dry matter intake of 26.5 lbs or 12.0 kg.

The above guidelines are recommendations only and not absolute requirements.

**Recommended Animate<sup>®</sup> feeding rate: 1.2 to 1.5 lbs (0.55 to 0.70 kg) per head daily**

