

Evonik launches first plant-based Animal Nutrition premix

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Evonik is introducing a new plant-based Animal nutrition premix product to maintain good health among sows (female pigs), laying hens and dairy cows by boosting their immunity. The new product, called PhytriCare® IM, consists of selected plant extracts with a high flavonoid content. Flavonoids are known for their anti-inflammatory effects. Currently available throughout Europe, the product is under approval in other countries.

PhytriCare® IM is originally developed in association with Dr. Eckel Animal Nutrition GmbH & Co. KG to prevent an overshooting of inflammatory reactions in sows, laying hens and dairy cows. PhytriCare® IM is a blend of carefully selected plant extracts covering a wide range of flavonoid subclasses. This blend targets a broad spectrum of inflammatory pathways to modulate, but not suppress, the inflammatory response.

“Farm animals are exposed to a variety of stress factors and respond by activating the body's defense mechanisms. If the stress continues at a higher level for a longer period, it can lead to chronic inflammation. The animal then uses an increased share of its energy and nutrients for the immune system rather than for beneficial activities, such as growth and performance, sometimes for months or years. Female animals are particularly stressed by reproductive processes anyway. Consequently, production efficiency decreases and the animal's ecological footprint increases,” explains Evonik Animal Nutrition department.

Evonik has worked on the natural anti-inflammatory effect of flavonoids in PhytriCare® IM in association with Dr. Eckel. Some of these secondary plant constituents, numbering around 8,000, have been shown to influence certain biochemical processes in animals that are associated with inflammation.

Since the prophylactic use of antibiotics has been banned in Europe, many farmers are looking for alternative solutions to keep their animals healthy and productive. In addition to probiotics, various other product classes have become established, including phytogenics. Evonik Animal Nutrition adds plant-based PhytriCare® IM to its probiotics-based Gut Health Solutions portfolio.