

# Changing the Agricultural Paradigm:

Are we as an industry ready and able to become sustainable?

## Topic 1: Addressing environmental threats to sustainability

Meeting the needs of tomorrow and the generations that will follow



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## The perceived problem

- Livestock production is 1 of the top 3 contributors to environmental problems
- Concerns:
  - Air quality
  - Global warming
  - Soil quality
  - Water quality
  - Biodiversity



## Environmental impact of modern animal agriculture

- Drives public perceptions
- Puts the face on modern agriculture
- Drives many regulatory initiatives

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## The Situation

- Three mighty forces
  - Energy
  - Food
  - Environment

## New Government Involvement

- Unprecedented in our time
- Involved in a broad range of non-traditional governmental areas
- Will recede eventually but very slowly

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## The technical advances: The Nitrogen Platform Concept as a tool for precision feeding

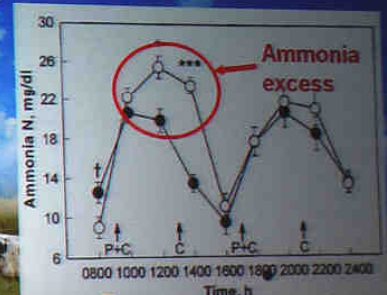
Redefine nitrogen metabolism to influence the efficiency of protein production and control wastes

Controlled release nutrient products



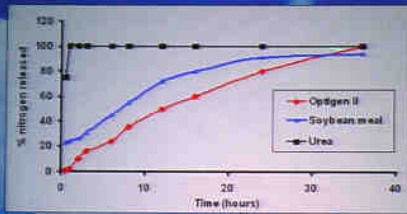
## A tool: Synchronization of N and carbohydrate metabolism

Balancing ruminal digestion and ammonia in cows



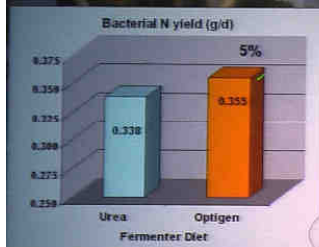
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## Change the form of a nutrient



**Optigen II: Designing nitrogen release pattern for altering nutrient availability**

## A proven concept:



Improved bacterial N yield and efficiency in the rumen

Improving nitrogen retention during digestion

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## Control nitrogen in waste of cattle



- Decreases nitrogen waste and could result in less  $N_2O$
- Could result in a decrease of as much as 7 million T  $CO_2$  eq in the US each year
- Projected worldwide, this could result in a 200 million T  $CO_2$  eq (5% reduction in livestock associated greenhouse gases)

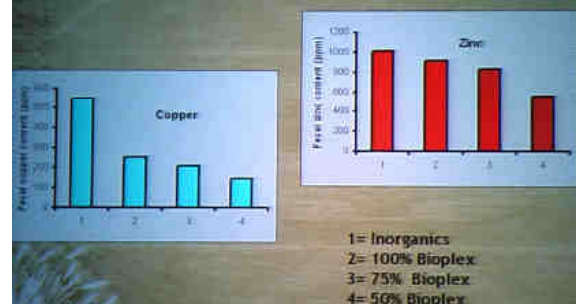
**Organic minerals: Maximizing mineral availability-minimizing mineral excretion and environmental impact**

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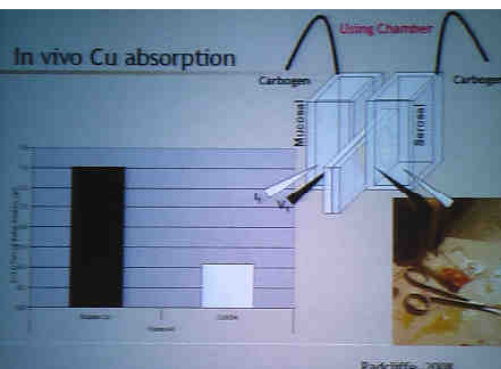
## Accumulation of metals in the environment

- Only 5-15% of the copper and zinc in an animal's diet are retained by the animal
- Accumulation in soils affects food products and productivity of crops
- In the EU, copper and zinc (trace elements) in animal feeds have been restricted

## Fecal mineral content in grow/finish swine fed decreasing levels of Bioplex minerals



- 1= Inorganics
- 2= 100% Bioplex
- 3= 75% Bioplex
- 4= 50% Bioplex



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## Topic 2: Quality issues that influence sustainability

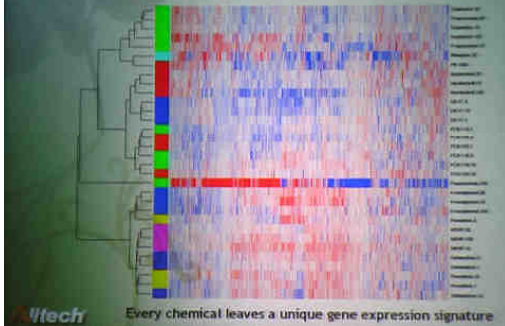
Developing the quality control strategies and tools that will improve reputation and sustainability of the livestock industry

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## Potential problems: Detection of Monensin

- Some facts:
  - Current potential detection level - 0.03 ppm
  - Validated analytical testing levels in most labs approximately 1 ppm
  - Regulatory acceptance
    - EU 1.25 ppm
    - US zero
- “Zero tolerance” Detectable = Unallowable
- What is appropriate and biologically relevant?

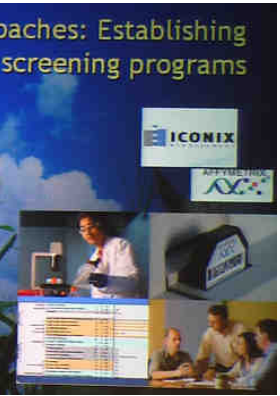
Biological relevance: Determining toxic threshold concentration of undesirable substances



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## Toxicogenomics approaches: Establishing new types of screening programs

- Science-based approach to risk management
- Establishing the true “biological risks” of feed contaminants
- Not based on perceived risk of individual contaminants
- Developing a herd (flock) health programs



## More radically: Establishing sentinel program

- Using gene expression markers to evaluate potential hazards associated with feeds
- Gauge the relative health of the overall food chain (the ultimate in food safety)



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## Defining our future and building confidence: Using technology to put traceability and quality into the industry

### FDA

- Role of the USDA?
- Feed plants are audited through third party certifications
- Food plants are not
- Communication is critical
- Must be science based

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## Alltech Quality System



## What is Q+™?

- Q+ (Quality Plus) is Alltech’s mineral quality program unique to the Bioplex® range of organic trace minerals.
- Q+ is a positive release program where all batches of inorganic trace mineral sources and final Bioplex batches are tested for Dioxin, PCBs and Heavy Metals prior to sale.
- Q+ also integrates the Bioplex quality measures, guaranteeing total chelation and mineral content developed over the last 18 years.
- Q+ is developed by Alltech, and is an integral part of the Alltech Quality System (AQS).

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