

## Practical guides Sustainability series



# How to get to 5th lactation?

Sustainability requires a holistic approach, integrating best practices in early life development, herd efficiency and precision feeding.

**LifeStart** is a science-based platform for dairy calves that provides evidence based best practice related to the critical period in the first months of life. It offers the science required to unlock the full potential of dairy cows. LifeStart accredited guidelines for calf milk replacers ensure the nutritional and physical parameters are carefully considered to satisfy calf requirements.

Building on this foundation, **HealthyLife** focuses on increasing lifetime daily yield by helping farmers achieve herd-specific targets. This approach enhances efficiency, ensuring cows remain productive for longer while reducing environmental impact per litre of milk produced.



**Precision Nutrition** ensures that animals receive balanced diets tailored to their needs. By leveraging advanced nutritional tools, waste is minimised, feed efficiency is optimised and sustainability goals are further reinforced.

The use of **feed additives** plays a crucial role in optimising efficiency and reducing environmental impact on farms.

### **Reducing carbon footprint with trace minerals**

Independent trials have shown that replacing sulphate-based trace minerals with Selko® IntelliBond® trace minerals in lactating cow diets can reduce the carbon footprint by 1.5-2% per kilogram of energy-corrected milk. Unlike traditional sulphate-based minerals, Selko IntelliBond does not disrupt the rumen environment and has been proven to enhance fibre digestibility. This allows livestock to maximise nutrient utilisation from their diet. Additionally, the superior bioavailability of IntelliBond enables producers to feed significantly lower levels while still meeting the animal's trace mineral requirements. As a result, waste is minimised and environmental impact is reduced by decreasing the excretion of excess minerals. A simple adjustment in mineral supplementation can contribute significantly to lowering a farm's carbon footprint.





### Maximising forage efficiency and feed preservation

On-farm efficiency is critical for sustainable dairy and livestock production. Maintaining the nutritional integrity and freshness of forage ensures that cows receive optimal nutrient intake, reducing the reliance on additional feed inputs and subsequently lowering the farm's carbon footprint. Implementing effective feed management strategies, such as utilising preservatives like Selko-TMR, helps maintain feed quality, prevent spoilage and ensure consistent nutrient availability. These practices contribute to improved feed efficiency, reduced labour requirements and enhanced overall herd productivity.



#### **Enhancing performance and sustainability**

Improving overall livestock performance — whether through increased growth rates, higher milk yields, or enhanced fertility — supports both economic viability and environmental responsibility. The inclusion of Selko® Lactibute®, a protected gluconate that promotes gut health, in livestock rations has been demonstrated to maintain and boost butterfat levels during the grazing period or periods of stress. Research indicates that Selko Lactibute not only increases butterfat content but also enhances milk protein levels and energy-corrected milk production. This improvement contributes to reducing the farm's carbon footprint by leveraging the dilution effect of increased fat- and protein-corrected milk.

Together, these pillars help farmers and feed compounders implement science-driven strategies that improve productivity and profitability while reducing environmental impact, to reach the 5th lactation.

