

Press Release

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New compound provides more methane reducing options for producers

A new compound to reduce methane emissions from cattle has been developed and tested by Rumin8, using a novel “prodrug” approach - which is inactive when consumed - but only becomes active after it is ingested by ruminants.

Initial results have been excellent, with total elimination of methane emissions in laboratory-based (*in vitro*) trials, and promising results in a preliminary animal study in Australia.

The most effective methane abatement products for cattle currently rely on delivering bromoform (the active ingredient which is either extracted from seaweed or manufactured synthetically), which is directly delivered into the animal’s rumen, by adding it to the feed or water that the cattle consume.

The new prodrug approach, converts the starting molecule into bromoform inside the rumen, using natural digestive processes in the gut to break down the prodrug into the target active bromoform. This ensures that the bromoform can immediately act to inhibit methane production in the rumen.

In preliminary studies at the University of Western Australia, the prodrug was added to a vessel mimicking conditions inside the rumen. Its anti-methanogenic effects were then assessed *in vitro* batch fermentation system using real rumen fluid, the same system used by Rumin8 in its early years to test its range of products now in the development phase of registration.

Importantly, methane production was inhibited even at low doses, with almost complete inhibition of methane compared to the substrate control.

Rumin8 has also recently completed an animal trial with the prodrug in a small number of cattle, with preliminary data showing methane reductions up to 86%, but further animal trials are required for more substantive validation.

“This alternative approach is appealing because it provides new options for producers, leveraging the industry leading methane reducing power of bromoform,” said Rumin8 CEO David Messina.

“With efficient conversion in the cow’s rumen, we have options to further reduce costs and enhance scalability, therefore supporting broader commercial adoption.”

Further laboratory studies using live rumen fluid are currently underway to further characterise the prodrug along with additional animal trials, and patents have already been filed to cover the new product platform.



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“Initial results are encouraging and, if similar performance continues, it will be added to our range of methane-abating feed supplements supporting lower-emissions livestock production,” Mr Messina said.

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About Rumin8

Rumin8 is an agriculture-focused climate tech company, using pharmaceutical technology to create affordable feed and water supplements that reduce methane emissions from livestock. Our patented process delivers a nature inspired and derived pharmaceutical ingredients to interrupt methane production, as well as boost animal performance. We're perfecting various formulations for diverse livestock feeding systems, including grass-fed cattle, aiming to decarbonise 100 million cattle by 2030. To learn more please visit: <http://www.rumin8.com>

