Sub Acute Ruminal Acidosis (SARA) can trigger serious consequences for milk production and animal health.

Individual cows milk protein % more than 0.4 higher than butterfat %
Individual cows butterfat % one full point below herd average
Dropped cuds
Loose dung
Individual cows milk protein % more than 0.4 higher than butterfat %
Butterfat % returns to normal when a rumen buffer is added to the ration
Cows experiencing laminitis and foot problems especially first lactation and fresh cows
Haemorrhages in soles or horizontal ridges in walls of claws

Ostrea® flour also has unique physical characteristics which make it an ideal rumen buffer. It has a large surface area and complex honeycomb structure and combines high availability in the rumen with a sustained action.

Benefits of Ostrea® compared to other rumen buffers

In recent laboratory trials separate model rumens were loaded with organic acids to mimic pH conditions in a real life rumen. They were then buffered with four commercially available products; sodium bicarbonate, product A, Ostrea Seashell Flour and Ostrea Oyster Shell Flour, at the equivalent of commercial doses. The pH was monitored over a period of up to four hours. The model rumens were subjected to acid loading to simulate post feeding rumen conditions in cows fed TMR diets and then higher levels of acid as experienced after twice daily parlour fed concentrates. Each time the pH was then monitored for up to 90 minutes.

The results shown in (Figure 1) demonstrate Ostrea®'s superior buffering ability to sustain the pH within the optimum range of 6-7 for good rumen function, without causing an initial “alkali” shock.

Risk Factors for Sub Acute Ruminal Acidosis (SARA)
- High concentrate diets
- Feeding more than 3kg of concentrates per feed
- Rapidly degradable sources of starch
- Sudden changes in diet
- Increasing concentrate levels by more than 0.75 kg/day
- Lack of physically effective dietary fibre
- Feed sorting
- Wet acidic silages
- Heat stress
- Grazing grass rich in soluble carbohydrates and low in fibre