



1211 N Ellis Rd #201
Sioux Falls, SD 57107

800-677-4482
605-339-1050
605-339-3136 Fax
chsinc.com

20 Dec 2017

Due to a recent fire at a BASF vitamin precursor plant in Germany, supplies of vitamin A have been drastically reduced globally. This has resulted in vitamin plants in many parts of the world having to shut down production. As you are already aware, we have reduced these vitamins in the custom and the standard products by 50%. This will help alleviate this problem and stretch our supply until we are able to resume normal vitamin production. We hope this will be by June 2018, but no one knows for sure yet. We are hoping that BASF will be able to rebuild the plant as soon as possible and return vitamin supplies to their normal levels and costs.

In the meantime, pregnant beef cows still require approximately 30,000 to 35,000 IU per day. Assuming a 4 oz intake, our minerals will supply around 31,250 to 37,500 IU of vitamin A at the reduced rate. So even at the half rate, we will be able to supply a maintenance level of the NRC requirement and supplement the stores that are already available to the cow in the liver. In addition, good, green alfalfa hay also contains vitamin A at around 8,700 IU per lb, so for example, supplementing five lbs of alfalfa at calving time will supply another 43,500 IU Vitamin A. Other feedstuffs containing a significant amount of vitamin A are corn silage (8,000 IU per lb DM), corn (454 IU per lb DM), and brome hay (6,800 IU per lb DM). Remember that the levels in these other feedstuffs can be highly variable depending on how long the hay has been in the stacks and whether the corn silage had a normal fermentation.

If you have any questions, please contact myself or Kim Hager.

Sincerely,

Lance R. Kennington, Ph.D.

CHS Nutrition