

## THE CASE AGAINST BOVAER

I am writing because I am very unhappy about the mandatory implementation of the Bovaer feed additive. Although currently only being trailed, it is slated for governmental mandating in legislation. The reasons for this are as follows:

1. The climate argument is flawed due the following:

- a) Although methane is produced by cows, bacteria break down the methane into carbon dioxide and water after about 10-12 years. That means that there is never a cumulative load of new methane in the atmosphere.
- b) Cows eating natural grass are taking CO<sub>2</sub> from the current atmosphere sequestered in the form of plant carbohydrates. It is not CO<sub>2</sub> that is additional to current atmosphere, so releasing it doesn't increase or decrease the current load and has no positive impact on climate change.
- c) Studies show that application of solid manure from cows onto fields increases the microbial content of the soil and so will lead to a reduction of methane, as bacteria process the methane. As removing cows from the fields will be the outcome of using this feed, these effects are removed.

2. The welfare of the cows will be negatively affected because of the following:

- a) Data on this feed says that natural grazing dilutes the affects and this means cows will have to be trapped in barns feeding only on this synthetic food source, with NO natural grazing.
- b) The trials for this additive show that it is an irritant, toxic and in female rats caused tumours. It also causes male infertility. In animal testing it accumulated in the brain, liver, muscles and tissues. All of these effects can only lead to negative impacts on the animals involved.
- c) Even the trial data stated observable changes had occurred in the animals ovaries. None of this is in keeping with dosing the animals with a drug (the FDA has registered NOP3 as a drug) that is completely unnecessary to the ANIMAL.
- d) Instead of free range cows fed on natural grass, they will be forced to eat low quality silage laced with unnatural chemicals and live their lives in barns instead of being able to exhibit any natural behaviour.

3. The negative effects on humans are as follows:

- a) This chemical additive is known to cause male infertility, it is an irritant on contact and harmful on inhalation. Farmers will be FORCED through mandates to use this feed, thereby risking their health.
- b) NOP3 was found in 4/5 out the milk samples taken from cattle, so the human populace consuming this are being experimented on, with a premise that is safe – ONLY made after trials done by the manufacturer and none that are independent.
- c) The chemical accumulates in muscle, so people consuming the animals will be getting an increased dose - much higher than in milk.
- d) Smaller independent farmers will be forced to commit to the expense of a commercial feed rather than using grass grown on their own land.
- e) Farmers soil fertility and grazing pastures will be negatively affected as it relies on grazing animals to 'mow' longer grass, so that new leaves replace the old (which also take up more

CO2). Manure created in barns will contain chemicals that are not part of any natural cycle - it's unknown what exposure to this will do. In addition, we don't know the genetic toxicity of this long term. We know it can cause cancer and could be exposing farmers long term to chemicals which have unknown effects on their fertility, offspring and cell health.

Even if the risks are small, I would NEVER expose my children to something that is potentially carcinogenic. I have boycotted ANY and ALL products that could contain Bovaer and think that governmental mandated use of it would remove ALL my personal ability to make decisions about mine and my families' health.

No product is organic if this drug is added to the animal and feed, so families like mine are left with no option but to have artificial, unnatural additions to our food. People are not guinea-pigs and should never be forced to take part in any trial, even if the government decides they should be. This is against the Geneva Convention on Human Rights.

In terms of your help:

- a) I ask that you request a motion that this is NEVER mandated and is left to personal choice by the farmer.
- b) Can you question in parliament why a substance that is classified as a drug in America is being added to UK animal feed - when in Australia they are using natural products like Kelp.
- c) Can you ask why we as tax payers have already paid out 10 million pounds for a production facility in Scotland, when the effects of this are unknown and could potentially lead to real health problems.

#### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

**The importance of solid cattle manure application on soil microorganisms in organic and conventional cultivation**

<https://tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/09064710.2012.678380...>