



On the Zilio family farm in Villafranca Padovana, one of the largest dairy farms in Italy, the collaboration with Balchem and the addition of ReaShure-XC and NiaShure helped push performance even higher.

# Choline and Niacin Help Improve a Top Italian Herd



According to Alex Zilio, the most important thing is to have a healthy and functional herd.

What do real Italian farmers do when milk price doesn't adequately cover their efforts? Simple: they choose to **produce more milk**, making the herd perform even better and giving their cows the opportunity to truly express their genetic potential. Reaching this milestone on a small operation is complex but on a farm like the **Zilio** family's, where **1,100 cows** produce 35 thousand litres per day, the task is really challenging.

## Technological nutrition

On the other hand, the Zilios love challenges, and collaborating with **Balchem** to refine the ration for their **2,300 Friesians** is paying off.

"Three years ago," recalls Alex Zilio, "we already had good performance on farm. However, our family is always looking for continuous improvement. When Balchem specialists presented **ReaShure**, we understood we could take advantage from its use at the feed bunk to improve performance and reduce dysmetabolism in post-partum." The first ration tests immediately gave the effect the Zilios had hoped for, and this encapsulated choline came right into their rations, leading to a significant increase in production and a **67% reduction in mastitis** in the first 30 days of lactation.



The large Zilio farm in Villafranca Padovana (PD)

To **Stefano Vandoni**, technical service manager at Balchem ANH, EMEA, this was no surprise. ReaShure is backed by more than forty scientific studies, all confirming the positive effects on cows from the dry period to the lactation phase. And as of 2021, an enhanced version of the product is available on the EMEA market: **ReaShure-XC**, which is characterized by double concentration compared to the previous version.

**Room also for niacin**

But the Zilios did not stop here and, satisfied with the improvements obtained from the introduction of choline, they decided to make room for another Balchem-branded technology: **NiaShure**, encapsulated niacin. Mario Pirondini, technical manager of Agrovit, (Balchem’s Italian distributor) sees the synergistic action of the two supplements as a valuable tool to prevent fatty liver and ketosis, which is particularly efficient in the case of cows with an elevated body condition in dry period. “We are open to new ideas, but they must work. And I must say” – Alex Zilio comments – “that thanks to Balchem expertise, and the inclusion of ReaShure-XC and NiaShure in the ration, we saw **an increase in milk production of about 2.4 liters/head/day**, without forgetting the significant reduction of post-partum events such as retained placenta, dislocation of the abomasum and metritis.” The Zilios also saw culling rates fall and health status of calves improve. In the last three years the farm brought about 150 more heifers to calving. The best testimony for any product is a herd that runs well and produces **a lot of excellent milk** – the real recipe for performance all breeders need. \*



The collaboration between Alex Zilio and Mario Pirondini, technical manager of Agrovit, the Italian distributor of Balchem, brought the farm to a level of higher efficiency.



Stefano Vandoni, technical service manager at Balchem ANH, EMEA



ReaShure-XC and NiaShure, Balchem’s solutions for dairy cows



To know more, visit [www.agrovit.com/balchem](http://www.agrovit.com/balchem)

