

THE SCHOOL OF SCIENCE & ENGINEERING PRESENTS...

Café Scientifique

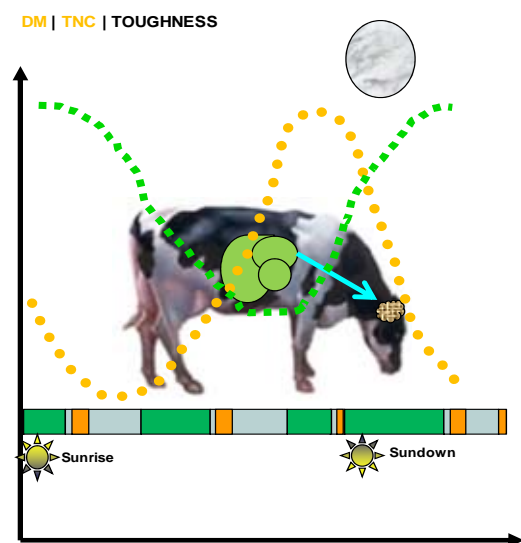
Why do cows prefer to graze at dusk?

Pablo Gregorini, DairyNZ

The nutrient content of pasture changes throughout a day. In ruminants, grazing also follows a 24 hour pattern. The two major grazing events occur around sunrise and sunset, the latter being the longest and most intense.

But what drives this behaviour? Is it dependent more upon changes in external stimuli, such as sunlight levels, or changes in internal stimuli, such as metabolic demand and variations in endocrine physiology?

“The animals’ behaviour begins to reveal how species have evolved to exploit resources, thus we learn more and more about the why- the ultimate causation of feeding patterns.” (Mayr, 1982)



In this talk, 2009 Kudos winner Pablo Gregorini from DairyNZ will try to answer ‘why’ grazing ruminants have this foraging pattern, and what this might mean for a farmer keen to manage optimally the nutrient input to his herd.

Tuesday 23 November, 7.30 pm
The Bank
cnr Victoria & Hood Streets, Hamilton
Free admission

For more information about future Cafés in Hamilton, contact Marcus Wilson

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<http://sci.waikato.ac.nz/cafescientifique>