

INFLUENCE OF FEEDING AMAFERM® ON THE PERFORMANCE OF LACTATING DAIRY COWS DURING HOT WEATHER

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AMAFERM® increased milk yield, increased dry matter intake and increased water consumption during hot weather.

SUMMARY

DOSE OF AMAFERM USED

3g per head, per day

On mid-lactation Holstein cows, feeding AMAFERM at a rate of 3g per head, per day increased milk yield by 1 kg/d, increased DMI by 0.9 kg/d, and increased water consumption by 10.3 liters per day. AMAFERM supplementation also resulted in lower rectal temperature by 0.14°C, and respiration rate by 4.3 counts per minute. Concentrations of milk components were similar, and no differences were seen in body weight and somatic cell count among treatments. However, cows treated with AMAFERM had higher milk lactose concentrations.

VALUE

AMAFERM supported higher milk yield, while keeping milk component concentrations and body weight the same.

PROTOCOL

Type of Animals/Experimental Units

- Lactating Holstein cows in mid-lactation

Number of Animals/Experimental Units

- 24 total; 12 in each treatment

PROTOCOL (CONTINUED)

Trial Design

- Randomized block design

Treatments

1. Control
2. 3 g/h/d AMAFERM

Diet Information (General)

- Normal herd ration of concentrate fed at 1/3 of pre-treatment milk yields plus ad libitum alfalfa hay consumption

Data Collection

- DMI, milk yield, water consumption, milk components, BW, SCC, rectal temperature, respiration rate

DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

- Cows fed AMAFERM produced more milk than Control (23.6 vs. 22.6 kg/d), had more DMI (19.9 vs. 19.0 kg/d) and drank more water (118.9 vs. 108.6 l/d)
- Milk fat, protein and SNF concentrations were similar between treatments, but lactose concentration was higher ($P < 0.15$) in AMAFERM-fed cows
- BW change and SCC were not different between the two treatments
- Weekly rectal temperatures and respiration rates were lower ($P < 0.25$) for cows fed AMAFERM compared to Control – 40.14°C vs. 40.28°C and 62.6 vs. 66.9 counts/min, respectively. On some days, temperature differences were significant ($P < 0.05$)

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