INFLUENCE OF FEEDING VITAFERM® WITH THE AMAFERM® ADVANTAGE DURING HOT WEATHER ON PERFORMANCE OF LACTATING COWS IN A LARGE DAIRY HERD

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AMAFERM fed cows averaged .9 kg more milk and .19° C lower rectal temperatures.

SUMMARY

DOSE OF AMAFERM USED
2g per head, per day

Feeding AMAFERM, in combination with the VitaFerm vitamin/mineral premix, on a large Arizona dairy farm with an evaporative cooling system, helped minimize heat stress and increased milk yield and butterfat production along with decreased rectal temperatures.

VALUE

AMAFERM provided during heat stress helped maintain milk production and butterfat.

PROTOCOL

Type of Animals/Experimental Units

- Lactating dairy cows

Number of Animals/Experimental Units

- 500 cows

Trial Design

- Field trial: randomized block (DIM, milk yield), 180 days from June to November, 1985

PROTOCOL (CONTINUED)

Treatments

1) Control (n = 250)
2) VitaFerm® mineral including AMAFERM® at 2 g/hd/d (n= 250)

Diet Information (General)

- Alfalfa haylage, green chop alfalfa, concentrate and whole cottonseed

Data Collection

- Milk production and composition, rectal temperatures

DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

- 91 treated cows and 105 control cows completed entire 6 month trial period
- AMAFERM group averaged 0.86 kg more milk than controls
- Mean butterfat was slightly higher for AMAFERM cows (3.77 vs. 3.64%)
- Adjusted 3.5% FCM was increased with AMAFERM (30.7 vs. 29.0 kg/d)
- Rectal temperatures taken monthly in the evening were lower for AMAFERM cows (39.93° vs. 40.12° C)

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