

EFFECT OF AMAFERM® ON PERFORMANCE OF COWS DURING EARLY LACTATION

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**AMAFERM improved milk production in early lactation.
The response was greatest between 40 and 90 days in milk.**

SUMMARY

DOSE OF AMAFERM USED
3g per head, per day

AMAFERM improved milk production from 40 to 150 days in milk (DIM), although the improvement was more pronounced from 40 to 90 DIM. The average increase in milk was 2.3kg. There was no difference in body condition scores between treatments.

VALUE

AMAFERM response was the most pronounced during early lactation, with the 3.5% FCM yield increased by 9.3%, 5.8% and 4.2% for cows in 40 - 90, 91 - 120, and 121 - 150 DIM, respectively.

PROTOCOL

Type of Animals/Experimental Units

- Early lactation Holstein cows

Number of Animals/Experimental Units

- 96 head

Trial Design

- Randomized block design, 3-week adaptation period



PROTOCOL (CONTINUED)

Treatments

- Control
- Control + AMAFERM

Diet Information (General)

- Earlage, alfalfa silage, rolled corn/barley, whole cottonseed and protein-mineral-vitamin pellet. The rations were balanced for energy, protein, vitamins and minerals

Data Collection

- Milk production and composition, body condition scores at 0 and 90 days, and average days open

DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

- 3.5% fat corrected milk was improved with AMAFERM, regardless of days in milk (Table 1)
- There was no difference in body condition scores at 90 days. Average BCS was 5.0 and 5.6, at zero and 90 days, respectively
- Average days open were not different, with 97.7 for AMAFERM and 95.2 for the control

Table 1
3.5% FCM milk
production (kg/d)
by days in milk
(data pulled
from abstract).

DIM	Control	AMAFERM
40 to 90	35.6 ^a	38.9 ^b
91 to 120	36.1 ^a	38.2 ^b
121 to 150	33.3 ^a	34.7 ^b

^{a, b} Significant at $P < 0.05$

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