

EFFECT OF FEEDING AMAFERM® OR VITAFERM® ON THE PERFORMANCE OF HOLSTEIN COWS DURING A LACTATION CYCLE

*R. O. Kellems, A. Lagerstedt, D. Andrus, M. V. Wallentine,
R. Jones and J. T. Huber*

Cows fed AMAFERM showed increased milk and FCM yield during the early lactation cycle.

SUMMARY

DOSE OF AMAFERM USED
3g per head, per day

During the early lactation cycle, dairy cows fed 3 g/h/d AMAFERM had similar DMI and BW change compared to the Control, but higher milk and FCM yields.

VALUE

AMAFERM treatment supported higher milk and FCM yield while maintaining body weight.

PROTOCOL

Type of Animals/Experimental Units

- Early lactation Holstein cows

Number of Animals/Experimental Units

- 144 – assigned to three groups based on milk yield, DIM and lactation

Trial Design

- Randomized complete block design, 3 week adaptation

PROTOCOL (CONTINUED)

Treatments

1. Control
2. AMAFERM, 3 g/h/d
3. VitaFerm, 90 g/h/d (3 g/h/d AMAFERM + mineral-vitamin mixture)

Diet Information

- Earlage, alfalfa silage, rolled corn and barley, whole cottonseed and protein-mineral-vitamin pellet – F/C ratio unknown

Data Collection

- DMI, milk yield, milk components, BW, BCS, days to conception, services per conception, days to first service

DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

- Feed intakes were similar among the three treatments ($P > 0.05$)
- Feeding 3 g/h/d AMAFERM produced the highest milk yield – 28.5 vs. 27.5 and 27.1 kg/d for VitaFerm and Control, respectively
- 3.5% FCM was highest for AMAFERM – 29.5 vs. 28.7 and 28.4 kg/d for VitaFerm and Control, respectively
- No differences were observed ($P > 0.05$) in BW and BCS, as well as average number of days to conception, services per conception and days to first service

BIOZYME INCORPORATED

6010 Stockyards Expy | St. Joseph, MO 64504 USA

Tel: 816-238-3326 | Fax: 816-238-7549

support@biozymeinc.com | www.biozymeinc.com

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