

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

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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

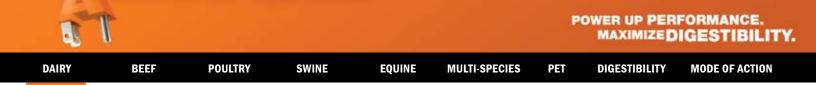
• Early lactation Holstein cows

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

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