EFFICACY OF VITAFERM® WITH AMAFERM® ON STOCKER CALVES

B.C. Allison and R. L. McCraw

Cows fed AMAFERM (via VitaFerm) had improved rate of gain during the first 28 days, and better efficiency of gain during the entire growing period.

SUMMARY

DOSE OF AMAFERM USED
2g per head, per day

During the first 28 days the cattle were on feed, VitaFerm with AMAFERM improved average daily gain by 0.53 pounds per day. For these cattle, the major stresses imposed were those associated with confinement. The improvement in rate of gain and efficiency, during the first 28 days, resulted in a reduction of feed cost per unit of gain by 22%. Providing AMAFERM to stressed cattle improves acclimation – substantiated by the increase in gain during the first 28 days.

VALUE

Providing AMAFERM to confinement-stressed cattle improved ADG by 0.53 pounds per day during the first 28 days, and reduced feed cost per unit of gain by 22% throughout the growing period.

PROTOCOL

Type of Animals/Experimental Units

- Angus and Angus/Hereford crosses, average 500 pounds

Number of Animals/Experimental Units

- 56 head

Trial Design

- Grouped by breed and ranked by weight, then assigned to treatment groups by Z-type distribution from heaviest to lightest across breeds. Fixed effects of replicates, breed and initial weight

PROTOCOL (CONTINUED)

Treatments

- Control
- VitaFerm: 2.5 oz/day (Amaferm 2g/day)

Diet Information

- Corn silage, 44% soybean meal, minerals (12% CP, 67.5% TDN)

Data Collection

- Gain, feed cost

DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

- Average daily gain, during the first 28-day period, was 0.53 pound higher ($P < 0.05$) for the AMAFERM group than the Control
- Average daily gain did not differ for the 126-day trial (Table 1)
- Total feed costs for the AMAFERM group were higher, but there was a 22% reduction in feed cost per unit of gain with AMAFERM (data not shown)

Table 1
Least squares means (standard errors) for average daily gain (lbs) by period.

Period[1]	Control	VitaFerm with AMAFERM
1	1.00[a] (0.17)	1.53[b] (0.18)
2	3.02 (0.17)	3.00 (0.17)
3	2.63 (0.12)	2.70 (0.12)
4	2.73 (0.10)	2.65 (0.10)
5	2.09 (0.21)	2.19 (0.21)
6	2.34 (0.07)	2.43 (0.07)

[a, b] Significantly different $P < 0.05$
[1] Periods 1 to 4 were 28 days in length
Period 5 was 14 days in length
Period 6 represents the entire 126-day trial

BIOZYME INCORPORATED
6010 Stockyards Expy I St. Joseph, MO 64504 USA
Tel: 816-238-3326 I Fax: 816-238-7549
support@biozymeinc.com I www.biozymeinc.com

BIOZYME® INCORPORATED