

INFLUENCE OF ASPERGILLUS ORYZAE FERMENTATION EXTRACT ON LOW QUALITY ROUGHAGE UTILIZATION

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Amaferm® treatment resulted in similar weight and body condition score changes as feeding 1.67 pounds/head/day during third trimester and early lactation. During the summer months Amaferm treatment results in cows gaining 96 more pounds and half a body condition score as compared to control cows.

SUMMARY

DOSE OF AMAFERM USED

2 g per head, per day

Including Amaferm in a winter feeding program resulted in cows having similar weight gains and body condition scores as cows that received a cottonseed meal, protein supplement. Including Amaferm in a summer grazing program of cow-calf pairs resulted in cows that gained nearly 100 pounds more and were a half of a body condition score greater than cows fed a plain mineral supplement. In addition, Amaferm fed pairs weaned slightly (10 pounds) heavier calves than their contemporaries.

VALUE

Amaferm has similar results as feeding a cottonseed meal, protein-type supplement on a low-quality forage diet. Amaferm treatment during the winter feeding period was equivalent to feeding 0.6 pounds/day of crude protein (1.5 pound of cottonseed meal). Amaferm during lactation and summer grazing has both a significant weight gain and body condition score advantages when compared to mineral supplements without Amaferm. Amaferm has the potential to increase weaning weights.

PROTOCOL

Type of Animals/Experimental Units

- Beef cows, breed unknown.

Number of animals/experimental units

- 39 in total, 19 control and 20 VitaFerm® treatment.

PROTOCOL (CONTINUED)

Trial Design

- Completely randomized design, 10 month period December to October.

Treatments

1. Control
2. VitaFerm® Cow-calf supplement (with 2 g/h/d Amaferm®)

Diet Information (general)

- Winter – graze dormant bermuda grass pasture and fed Coastal bermuda grass hay free-choice.
- Summer – graze bermuda grass pasture.

Data Collection

- Initial, intermediate and final BW, body condition score, and calf weaning weights.

DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

- There was no negative control. The positive control of 1.5 pounds/head/day of cottonseed meal has been shown to maintain cows during winter months. Feeding Amaferm appears equivalent to the positive control.
- During summer grazing VitaFerm mineral supplementation supported nearly 100 pounds of cow weight gain and significant body condition scores as compared to another mineral supplement.
- Weaning weight of calves from VitaFerm supplemented pairs weighed about 10 pounds more than their contemporaries, but this weight difference was not statistically different.

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