

AMAFERM® IN SILAGE-BASED COMPLETE RATIONS FOR LACTATING COWS

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AMAFERM improved milk fat yield and FCM, without a negative impact on DMI.

SUMMARY

DOSE OF AMAFERM USED

56.7 g/h/d, hand added

AMAFERM added at feeding increased milk fat yield by 6.9% ($P < 0.05$), 3.5% FCM by 5.3% ($P < 0.05$), and tended to increase milk fat percentage ($P < 0.1$) with no adverse effects on dry matter intake (DMI) or milk yield.

VALUE

In silage-based diets with AMAFERM, producers can achieve more value from their milk production and increased milk fat yield.

PROTOCOL

Type of Animals/Experimental Units

- 32 cows in mid-lactation, breed unknown

Number of Animals/Experimental Units

- 2 per treatment

Trial Design

- 4x2x2 factorial in a partially balanced incomplete block design



PROTOCOL (CONTINUED)

Treatments

- 5 roughage sources (pelleted cottonseed hulls, sunflower hulls, sugarcane silage, sugarcane silage with AMAFERM added at ensiling (5 kg/ton, corn silage)
- Sodium bicarbonate (0 or 1%)
- AMAFERM (0 or 56.7 g/h/d, hand added)

Diet Information (General)

- 65-75% concentrate, 25-35% roughage

Data Collection

- DMI, milk yield, milk fat, 3.5% FCM, BW and BW change

DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

- Milk production was slightly elevated (25.3 vs. 24.7kg/day) when AMAFERM was added to sugarcane silage at the time of ensiling
- AMAFERM had no significant effect on dry matter intake or milk yield in silage diets, but tended to increase milk fat percentage ($P < .10$), fat yield and 3.5% FCM ($P < .05$)

POINTS TO CONSIDER

The concentration of AMAFERM (56.7 g/h/d) was significantly higher than what is recommended by the manufacturer. More importantly, there were only two cows per treatment. This would not allow for publication today due to inadequate replication.

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