

Influence of feeding Vita Ferm during hot weather on performance of lactating cows in a large dairy herd

K. M. Marcus, J.T. Huber, S. Cramer

Department of Animal Sciences, University of Arizona, Tucson
and Arizona Dairy Company, Chandler

Published Journal of Dairy Science 69 (supplement 1):188
1986

P292

A 500 cows at a large dairy herd were divided into two equal groups, balanced for days in milk and milk yield. Treated cows received 90 g daily of a supplement containing *Aspergillus oryzae*, vitamins and minerals, (Vita Ferm). The other group served as controls. The normal herd ration was group-fed to all cows, which included alfalfa haylage, green chop alfalfa, concentrate and whole cottonseed. Up to 120 days after calving, cows were in pens equipped with evaporative coolers, but then were moved to pens with shade only. Treatment was for six months, (June to November, 1985) and DHIA data compared milk yields and composition. Adjusted milk yields for all cows fed Vita Ferm averaged .86 kg more than controls. For 91 treated and 104 control cows which completed six months on treatment for respective groups averaged -6.7 and -8.2. Mean butterfat percent was slightly higher for Vita Ferm cows (3.77 vs 3.64%) and adjusted 3.5% FCM was also higher (30.7 vs 29.0 kg/day). Rectal temperatures taken monthly in the P.M. were lower for cows fed on Vita Ferm (39.93 vs 40.12 C). Partially supported by BioZyme Corporation, St. Joseph, MO.