

Effect of Feeding *Aspergillus oryzae* on performance of cows during early lactation

R.O. Kellems, N.P. Johnston, M.V. Wallentine, A Lagerstedt, D. Andrus, R. Jones, and J.T. Huber. Brigham Young University

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Following a three-week adaptation period, ninety-six early lactation Holstein cows were allotted, based on milk flow, days in milk and lactation number, to two equal groups. Control ration (I) was balanced for energy, protein, minerals and vitamins and the treatment ration (II) had 3 grams of *Aspergillus oryzae* culture added to the control ration. Control rations consisted of earlage, alfalfa silage, rolled corn/barley, whole cottonseed and protein-mineral-vitamin pellet. FCM (3.5%) during the adaptation period was 33.0 kg and 33.1 kg, respectively for groups I and II. Groups were subdivided into subgroups based on days in milk (40-90, 91-120, 121-150 days) and FCM (3.5%) were compared. FCM (3.5%) for group I and II were significantly different; 35.6 kg, 38.9 kg; 36.1 kg, 38.2 kg; 33.3 kg, 34.7 kg, respectively for 40-90, 91-120 and 121-150 days in milk periods. Body condition scores were not different, between the initial and the 90th day; 5.0, 5.6; 5.1, 5.6 between groups. I and II. Average days open were not different; 97.7 and 95.2 days, respectively for groups I and II.

Key words: *A. oryzae*, milk, fungi