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## Post-weaning performance of calves as affected by longstem hay and method feeding

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Post-Weaning Performance of Calves as Affected By  
Longstem Hay and Method Feeding

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E. F. Smith and L. H. Harbers

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Three different rations were compared for feeding calves immediately after weaning. Desired is a ration that will reduce weaning stress, produce economical gains, and be easy to feed.

The rations are shown in Table 4. Initial weight of the calves was taken at the pasture just before weaning. The calves were transported the same day 8 miles to the Beef Cattle Research Center where they were divided into groups and started on experimental rations.

The self-fed mixture of sun cured alfalfa crumbles and rolled sorghum grain was not improved by adding prairie hay. Six of the twelve steers on that self-fed mixture without hay were treated for coccidiosis; however, with or without hay, that mixture produced better and more efficient gains than the mixture of sorghum grain, alfalfa, and prairie hay fed once each day.

TABLE 4. POST WEANING PERFORMANCE OF CALVES AS AFFECTED BY  
LONGSTEM HAY AND METHOD OF FEEDING  
October 13 to December 5, 1970 - 52 Days

	Self-fed mixture of alfalfa crumbles and rolled sorghum grain		Self-fed mixture of alfalfa crumbles, rolled sorghum grain <u>plus</u> prairie hay		Rolled sorghum grain plus prairie and alfalfa hay fed daily	
	Steers	Heifers	Steers	Heifers	Steers	Heifers
Number of cattle	12	12	12	13	13	13
Initial weight pounds	398	388	409	388	450	404
Final weight	471	458	495	447	494	436
Daily gain per head	1.40	1.35	1.65	1.13	0.85	0.62
Daily feed per calf, pounds						
Mixture of 60% sun cured alfalfa crumbles and 40% rolled sorghum grain	11.8	12.7	11.8	10.1		
Prairie hay			3.2	3.3	3.9	3.3
Alfalfa hay					3.5	3.2
Rolled sorghum grain					4.5	4.5
Total Feed	11.8	12.7	15.0	13.4	11.9	11.0
Feed per pound of gain	8.4	9.4	9.1	11.8	14.0	17.7
Cost per owt. gain (mixture @ \$50.00, hay @ \$25.00 & grain @ \$40.00/ton)	21.00	23.50	20.38	25.90	21.48	27.53
Number of times animals treated for sickness	10	1	3	5	4	3