The value of dehydrated alfalfa and delayed grain fed to young cows on winter bluestem

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The value of dehydrated alfalfa and delayed grain fed to young cows on winter bluestem

Abstract
This test was to compared the following three winter treatments for young cows on bluestem pasture. Treatment 1 -- One pound of soybean oil meal and 2 pounds of ground sorghum grain per head daily during the entire winter feeding period. Treatment 2 -- One and a half pounds of soybean meal fed per heifer daily until 50 days before the feeding season ended, then ground sorghum grain was fed. The same total amount of sorghum grain as fed under treatment 1 throughout the winter was concentrated during the last 50 days with the soybean oil meal discontinued when grain feeding reached the quantity to supply the same amount of protein as those on treatment 1 received. Treatment 3-- Dehydrated alfalfa fed at 3.3 pounds and ground sorghum grain at 1 pound per heifer daily during the entire winter feeding period.

Keywords
Cattlemen's Day, 1969; Report of progress (Kansas State University. Agricultural Experiment Station); 529; Beef; Dehydrated alfalfa; Grain; Winter bluestem

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Authors
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The Value of Dehydrated Alfalfa
and Delayed Grain Fed to
Young Cows on Winter Bluestem
Pasture, 1965-1968 (Project 253)

R.W. Swanson, E.F. Smith, D. Richardson and C.L. Drake

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the last 50 days with the soybean oil meal discontinued
when grain feeding reached the quantity to supply the
same amount of protein as those on treatment 1 received.
Treatment 3 -- Dehydrated alfalfa fed at 3.3 pounds and
ground sorghum grain at 1 pound per heifer daily during
the entire winter feeding period.

In addition to the above all cows were fed 5 pounds
of ground sorghum grain per cow daily from March 1 to
April 20, 1968, because they were thin.

The above three rations were formulated to supply
approximately the same amount of protein and total digest-
able nutrients for the total winter period. In addition,
each heifer received daily an average of 20,000 I.U. of
Vitamin A, and 0.05 lb. of monosodium phosphate. Salt
was fed free choice.
There were three recorded periods of winter supplementation which started in November and closed in April.

(1) Open calves, winter of 1965-66
(2) Bred Yearlings, winter of 1966-67
(3) Bred two year olds, winter of 1967-68

The cows were grazed together on bluestem pasture each summer with no supplementation other than salt and were exposed to the same bulls. They were bred as yearlings in the summer of 1966; the results reported are for the calf crops produced in 1967 and 1968.

Results

Results are reported in table 9. There were no significant differences among treatments. Delayed grain feeding reduced the average weight of the cows which was probably due to the larger number of calves weaned. For the year 1967 pounds of calf weaned per cow was greatest for delayed grain feeding, largely a result of more calves weaned. The cows fed dehydrated alfalfa calved later the first year and weaned fewer pounds of calf per cow.
Table 9
The Value of Dehydrated Alfalfa and Delayed Grain Feeding of Young Cows on Winter Bluestem November to April, 1965-66, 66-67, 67-68

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pasture number</th>
<th>Soybean oil meal and sorghum grain fed at same rate</th>
<th>Soybean oil meal and sorghum grain, feeding delayed until</th>
<th>Dehydrated alfalfa and sorghum grain</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12A &amp; 15</td>
<td>12C &amp; 7B</td>
<td>12B &amp; 7A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of cows, Dec. 18, 1965</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Av. wt. of cows that raised calves, Sept. 5, 1968</td>
<td>882</td>
<td>826</td>
<td>872</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gain per cow (cows that raised calves) Dec. 18, 1965 to September 5, 1968</td>
<td>417</td>
<td>380</td>
<td>402</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1967 calves</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of cows in herd at breeding time</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calving date</td>
<td>3/12</td>
<td>3/14</td>
<td>3/21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birth wt., lbs.</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calves born alive, %</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calves weaned, %</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weaning wt., sex adjusted to steer basis</td>
<td>372</td>
<td>374</td>
<td>348</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weaning wt. adjusted to 210-day steer basis</td>
<td>382</td>
<td>390</td>
<td>367</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pounds of calf weaned per cow in the herd at breeding time (sex and age adjusted)</td>
<td>264</td>
<td>277</td>
<td>247</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1968 calves</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of cows in herd at breeding time</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calving date</td>
<td>3/5</td>
<td>3/14</td>
<td>3/13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birth wt., lbs.</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calves born alive, %</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calves weaned, %</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weaning wt., sex adjusted to steer basis</td>
<td>441</td>
<td>430</td>
<td>428</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weaning wt. adjusted to 210-day steer basis</td>
<td>421</td>
<td>424</td>
<td>410</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pounds of calf weaned per cow in the herd at breeding time (sex and age adjusted)</td>
<td>379</td>
<td>378</td>
<td>381</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>