WINTERING HEIFERS ON BLEUSTEAM PASTURE; MOLASSES VS. SORGHUM GRAIN, SOYBEAN MEAL VS. SOYBEAN MEAL PLUS BEEF TALLOW, 1957-1958. PROJECT 253-2.

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In this experiment two feeds were evaluated as possibilities for economically increasing gains on winter pasture. Molasses was self-fed to heifer calves in one pasture and compared with sorghum grain hand fed to heifer calves in another pasture. The dry matter intake was maintained at about the same level by varying the sorghum grain intake to equal molasses consumption. Soybean meal was fed as a source of protein to both lots.

A third lot was fed soybean meal with beef tallow added to study beef tallow as a source of energy and to observe its effect on palatability. The beef tallow varied in percentage fed, but the soybean meal fed this lot contained an average of about 10% tallow. Inedible stabilized bleachable fancy tallow was fed.

Good to choice Hereford heifers used in the test came from near Clovis, N.M., and were assigned to their experimental treatment on the basis of weight. The lots were fed as follows:

Lot 1. One pound of soybean meal per head daily and sorghum grain to equal the dry matter intake of molasses by lot 2.

Lot 2. One pound of soybean meal per head daily and cane molasses self-fed.

Lot 3. One pound of soybean meal per head daily with added beef tallow (about 10%) and molasses self-fed.

Plenty of old grass was available in all pastures, about 6 acres per head. A mineral mixture of 2 parts bone meal and 1 part salt by weight and salt alone were offered free choice.

The winter feeding period was discontinued April 19 but the heifers were grazed with no supplemental feed until July 19.

Observations

Molasses was equal to sorghum grain as a source of nutrients, primarily energy, on winter pasture. An attempt was made to keep the dry matter intake of the lots about the same by regulating the sorghum grain consumption in keeping with molasses intake; the molasses was self-fed.

Due to the larger consumption of molasses on an "as fed basis" the cost of production was somewhat higher for the molasses lots.

The tallow fed to lot 3 was unpalatable. The first soybean meal fed carried 10% inedible bleachable fancy tallow; it was refused by the animals. They were then gradually introduced to the tallow by mixing only minute quantities with the soybean meal. The last 60 days the soybean meal carried 7% tallow. There appeared to be a great deal of individual variation in regard to acceptance of the tallow: one heifer was never observed eating the supplement, whereas a few ate it readily after a few days.

The tallow did not improve the performance of the heifers.