Self-Feeding Urea Molasses and the Feeding of Aureomycin to Steer Calves Wintered on Bluestem Pasture, 1956-57 (Project 253-1).

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In this study a self-fed, urea-molasses mixture is being compared to molasses self-fed plus 1.3 pounds of soybean meal in an effort to determine if a urea-molasses mixture self-fed on dry grass will serve as an adequate source of protein and energy.

Another phase of the experiment is to determine if aureomycin will improve the performance of calves wintered outside exposed to the hazards of winter weather.

Experimental Procedure

The steer calves used in the study originated in the vicinity of Santa Rosa and Melrose, N.M. They were allotted to their treatments on the basis of weight. The calves in lots 12 and 12A were wintered together in a 190-acre bluestem pasture and separated each morning to be fed. The calves in lot 7 were in a 60-acre pasture, as were those in lot 15.

Lot 12 should be compared with lot 12A, which received aureomycin in the form of Aurofac 2A. The Aurofac 2A was mixed with the soybean meal so as to furnish 46 mgs. of aureomycin per calf daily.

Lot 7 should be compared with lot 15. The molasses in lots 7 and 15 was self-fed with no attempt to regulate consumption. The urea-molasses mixture fed to lot 15 contained 77 percent molasses, 3 percent phosphoric acid, and a 20 percent urea solution which was one half urea and one half water. The molasses fed to lot 7 contained 3 percent phosphoric acid.

Observations

Aureomycin added to the ration of lot 12A increased the gain slightly as compared with lot 12. Molasses fed to lot 7 was more palatable than the urea molasses fed to lot 15. The soybean meal and extra molasses consumed by lot 7 increased the gain of that lot by 87 pounds per head over lot 15 self-fed a urea-molasses mixture.

The protein or protein equivalent consumed in the supplemental feed by the two lots was about the same for each lot.

Apparently some additional source of protein other than that found in dry bluestem pasture and area is necessary for calves.