NET ENERGY AND PROTEIN REQUIREMENTS FOR GAIN AND MAINTENANCE OF BEEF BULLS

by .

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INTRODUCTION

The systems of beef production in this and many other countries have undergone profound changes during the past score of years, and these trends are still continuing. One of the major changes has been the marketing of younger finished cattle. This change has made it even more necessary than before that the beef producer have a thorough knowledge of the nutrient requirements and efficiency of his cattle, in order to secure the best possible returns.

All those with considerable experience in the cattle business know that "blood tells" in beef production, just as it does in other types of stock farming. Good returns cannot be expected when cattle for beef are raised out of inferior parents.

In order to determine the genetic merit of prospective herd sires a postweaning performance test is necessary. Rations used for postweaning performance testing have varied with only poor estimates as to the expected performance on a particular ration.

Numerous research reports have clearly shown the advantages of bulls compared to steers or heifers in feed efficiency, rate of gain and yield of retail cuts. Also, sex influences the onset of fattening with heifers fattening at lighter weight than steers, and steers at lighter weights than intact males. Therefore the feeding of young bulls could be of importance not only in performance testing but also in the production of beef for consumption.

Moreover, curtailment of castration would enable breeders to select young sires after they have had an opportunity to demonstrate their growth potential. Considering the advantages that bulls have for the present day beef demands, a study of carcass composition was generated to determine the net protein and energy requirements for maintenance and production of young beef bulls. This thesis consists of the presentation of the referred study and the results obtained.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Composition and Gain

Hankins (1946) presented a carcass study on 120 head of cattle based on physical and chemical composition of the ninth-tenth-eleventh rib cut and of the entire dressed carcass. The following relationships were found:

Separable lean of = 16.08 + 0.80 (separable lean of ninth-tenth-eleventh dressed carcass rib cut)

Separable fat of = 3.54 + 0.80 (separable fat of ninth-tenth-eleventh dressed carcass rib cut)

Separable bone of = 5.52 + 0.57 (separable bone of ninth-tenth-eleventh dressed carcass rib cut)

Loosli and Guilbert (1951) concluded that the total feed capacities of the various livestock species are proportional to the same fractional power of body weight as maintenance requirement and basal heat production. The ratio of required protein to available energy intake is the same for the various species at physiologically equivalent growth stages; however this ratio changes with alterations in the composition of growth increments with advancing age.

Garrett, Meyer and Lofgreen (1959) presented a comparative slaughter technique for net energy studies. The technique involved carcass specific gravity determined by underwater weighting. The following equations were used to derive body composition:

- (1) Y = 0.9955X .0013 where Y and X are the specific gravities of the whole body and dressed carcass, respectively (Kraybill, et al., 1952)
- (2) percent body water = 100 (4.008 $\frac{3.620}{Y}$), deriving Y from 1 above (Reid, et al., 1955)

- (3) percent body fat = 337.88 + 0.2406X 188.91 logX where X is the percent body water (formula 2)
- (4) percent protein in fat free dry matter = 80.93 .00101 (age) where age is in days.
- (5) percent body protein = (percent protein in 4 above) (percent
 fat-free dry-matter)
- (6) The caloric value of fat and protein were considered to be 9367 kcal per kg of fat (Blaxter and Rook, 1953) and 5686 kcal per kg of protein (Garret, 1958).

Using this procedure Lofgreen concluded that net energy for maintenance can be approximated by the expression 35 $W_{1bs}^{3/4}$ = NEm in kcal. Also $ME_{kcal} = 62 \ W_{1bs}^{3/4}$ and $DE_{kcal} = 76 \ W_{1bs}^{3/4}$, where NEm is the net energy for maintenance, ME is the metabolizable energy and DE is the digestible energy, W is the weight in pounds.

Bailey, et al. (1966) concluded that bulls and steers were similar in preweating growth rate from growth rate, feed utilization and body composition data. Bulls grew more rapidly in the feedlot than steers, were more efficient in feed conversion and produced leaner carcasses. Steers appeared to have a consistent advantage in carcass grade perhaps due to the higher fat content.

From the Biological Energy Interrelationships and Glossary of Energy Terms (revised 1966) the following formulas were obtained:

 GE_{i} = (Dry wt of food consumed) (GE of food per unit dry weight)

FE = (Dry wt of feces) (GE of feces per unit dry weight)

DE = GE_{i} - FE

GE ($\frac{digestion}{coefficient}$) = $\frac{DE_{i}}{GE_{i}}$ (100)

 $ME = GE_{i} - FE - GPD - UE = NEp + NEm + HP$

HP = HI + HA + HB with energy intake on the feed

HP = ME - NEp at zero energy intake

Where GE₁ is the gross energy intake, FE is the fecal energy, DE is the digestible energy, ME is metabolizable energy, GPD is gaseous products of digestion, UE is urinary energy, NEp is net energy of production. NEm is net energy of maintenance and HP is heat production. HA is the heat for activity, HI is the heat increment for gain and HB is the basal heat.

Lofgreen and Garret (1968) used the comparative slaughter technique for steers and heifers and determined that $\text{NEm}_{(\text{megacal})} = 0.077 \text{ W}_{kg}^{3/4}$ for both steers and heifers. Also the $\text{NEg}_{(\text{kilocals})} = (52.72 \text{ g} + 6.84 \text{ g}^2)$ where g is the average daily gain in kilograms and NEg is per unit of metabolic body size $(\text{W}_{kg}^{3/4})$. The equation for heifers is presented as NEg = $(56.03 \text{ g} + 12.65 \text{ g}^2) \text{ W}_{kg}^{3/4}$. It was shown that heifers deposit more energy as fat per unit of weight than do steers and that the difference is larger at higher rates of gain.

Berg and Butterfield (1968) examined growth patterns of muscle, fat and bone in relation to their influence on carcass composition and conformation. Bone growth occurred during early development, muscle growth during intermediate development, and fat tissue deposition during late development. Fat increasing its rate after the fattening phase begins. Sexes differed in weight at the onset of the fattening phase. Bulls showed delayed fattening compared to steers and reached higher muscle-bone ratio in their carcasses.

According to Maynard and Loosli (1969), in the case of ruminants on full rations, the energy lost as methane is of the order of 7% of the gross energy intake (this related to roughage intake). Methane contains 13.34 kcal per

gram. Urine contains energy in the order of 4 to 5 percent of the gross energy intake (as related to N intake).

Chemical analysis on one cm. sections of the 12th rib cuts, showed that cuts from bulls contained 11 percent more protein and 11 percent less fat than their steer mates, (Arthaud, et al., 1969). Bull carcasses weighed 24.5 kg more than steers and yielded 26.8 kg more boneless trimmed retail product. When trait means were adjusted to a common carcass weight of 235 kg, bull carcasses yielded 13.2 kg more total retail product.

Hendrick, et al. (1969) used half-sib bulls, steers and heifers for live gain and carcass comparisons. The Warner-Bratzler shear was used to measure tenderness. Bulls were observed to be superior to steers and heifers in both live weight gain (P < .05) and feed conversion. Steers and heifers were similar in this respect. Total weight and percent retail cuts of the carcass were consistently greater (P < .05) for bulls than for steers and heifers and in most instances, greater for steers than for heifers. Shear values and sensory panel scores indicated that steaks from bulls less than 16 months of age were comparable in tenderness to steaks from steers and heifers of similar chronological age. Flavor and juiciness of cooked steaks were not significantly affected by sex condition.

Bidart, et al. (1970) found that when bulls and steers are fed for the same time interval, the faster gaining bulls would have a higher maintenance requirement due to their heavier average weight during the period even if the energy expenditure per unit weight were equal in bulls and steers. The partial regression for bulls of 6.0 Mcal digestible energy (DE) consumed per kg of edible product produced was significantly less than the requirement of 20.3 Mcal DE per kg of carcass trim. One can speculate that differences in

gain of edible product in bulls were due largely to gain in protein and water, whereas differences in gain of carcass trim were primarily fat. In steers the partial regressions were 12.8 Mcal DE per kg of edible product and 15.3 Mcal DE per kg of carcass trim. Differences between sexes was significant. The edible portion of steers undoubtedly had a higher proportion of fat than bulls.

Protein Utilization

Mitchell (1929) concluded that light weight, rapidly gaining feedlot cattle have nearly as large, if not larger, needs (gms per day) for abomasal protein as do large feedlot cattle gaining at a similar rate. It becomes obvious that the lighter animal with more limited feed capacity has greater difficulty than the heavier animal in satisfying his abomasal need for amino acids from microbial protein.

Burroughs (1970) defined metabolizable protein as that quantity of protein digested absorbed in the post-ruminal portion of the digestive tract of cattle and other ruminants. It concerns itself with the quantity of feed protein consumed which escapes degradation in the rumen and with the quantity of degraded protein that is reformed into microbial protein before consideration is finally given to digestibility and absorbable quantity of amino acids arising from the two sources of protein from the feed consumed.

METHODS AND MATERIALS

Initial Procedures

Thirty-three half-sib Hereford bulls weighing approximately 200 kg at an age of 8 months were divided into three groups. Ten animals were slaughtered at the initiation of the trial to represent initial carcass composition. The remaining 23 bulls were individually fed for a period of 140 days. At the end of the feeding period 11 bulls were placed into metabolism stalls to determine digestion coefficients. The remaining 12 were slaughtered at the end of the feeding period to determine carcass composition. There was an average of 156.5 days feeding period prior to slaughter, this was due to limitations in slaughtering facilities.

The ration used for the feeding period consisted of 60% concentrate which included 41% milo, 10% dry molasses, 1% bone meal, 2% salt, .05% trace minerals, 21% dehydrated alfalfa and 25% soybean meal. The other 40% of the ration was prairie hay ground to about 7.5 cm.

Composition Analysis for Gain

Carcass composition was determined by the method presented by Hankins (1946). Results for both groups of slaughtered bulls are shown in Table 1.

Results from the first group were used to determine the initial composition of the group of 12 after proper half-sib grouping. From this data the net carcass gain was determined in terms of percent fat, lean and bone.

Samples (2 gms) of lean, fat and bone were analyzed for protein and dry matter content (AOAC, 1970). Energy was determined by oxygen bomb calorimetry following drying of wet sample on calorimeter cup. Bone samples from the femur, spine and rib showed no significant difference in composition,

therefore, an average of these three measurements was utilized. Lean had 1401 cal per gram, 18.96% protein and 23.56% dry matter. Fat was 2.62% protein, 93.37% dry matter and had 8477 cal per gram. Bone contained 82.86% dry matter, 3154 cal per gram and 22.69% protein. These values were used to determine the net calories and protein gained in the carcass, following the procedure recommended by Berg and Butterfield (1968).

Metabolic Analysis for Maintenance

Prior to the metabolism trial the bulls were given a seven-day preliminary period to allow for adjustment to confinement and establish a constant feed intake. The metabolism trial consisted of 5 days of constant feed intake and total collection of feces, urine and feed weighbacks twice a day. Samples of feed and collection were submitted for proximate analysis (AOAC, 1970). The concentrate had 3930 cal per gram and 19.07 percent protein, hay was 4.79 percent protein and had 3970 cal per gram.

The digestion coefficients for energy and protein were calculated according to the procedure presented in Biological Energy Interrelationship and Glossary of Energy Terms (1966). Determined values are: Gross Energy Coefficient = 62.62; Gross Protein Coefficient = 60.50. These digestion coefficients were used to determine the digested energy and protein for the final group of 12 bulls.

The following interrelationships obtained from Lofgreen, et al. (1963) were used to determine the net energy for maintenance.

ME = DE - GPD - UE = HP + NEm + NEp

At zero energy intake:

HP = HA + HB = NEm = ME - NEg

where ME is the metabolizable energy, DE is the digestible energy determined

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before. GPD is the gaseous products of digestion; amounting for about A of the gross energy intake. Ut is the univery energy, which is in the ther of 4 to 5 percent of the gross energy intake (Maynard and Loosli, 1943). Values are in the zone of thermoneutrality. HA is the heat for activity and HB is the basal heat. HP is the heat production which is composed if HI (heat increment), HA and HB when fed above maintenance levels. NEp is the net energy for production (already determined) with NEm being the net energy for maintenance. Table 2 shows the energy analysis.

Digested protein was described by means of the digestion coefficient. The net protein requirements for maintenance were determined by the data presented by Burroughs (1970). Degraded protein converted into microbial protein reaching the abomassum was estimated as a maximum of 51.2 gms of protein per kilogram of concentrate dry matter. A maximum conversion of 25.6 grams of microbial protein was used in the case of roughages. Finally the quantities of metabolizable protein were determined based upon an apparent coefficient of digestion of 78 for microbial protein (Johnson, et al., 1944).

The literature (Burroughs, 1970) indicates that approximately 40% of the metabolizable protein needs is lost in metabolism. This value was used to determine the total net protein. Net protein for production was already determined from the carcass analysis. Net protein for production was the remaining component of total net protein. Protein analysis is shown in Table 3.

Statistical Analysis

Regression analysis of bull data was used for determination of the protein and energy requirements for gain and maintenance on a carcass basis.

Coefficients were obtained by passing the regression line through the origin. The relationship of total feed capacities being proportional to the mid-weight ($\frac{\text{final weight}}{2}$) to the three quarters power (Loosli, 1951) was included in the final analysis of the data. (See Appendices)

TABLE 1. CARCASS COMPOSITION

				, a		
Bull no.	A.D.G. _{Kg}	Dress. %	Lean %	Fat %	Bone %	Slg. Wgt. Kg
Starting	composition			ti.		
017		50.18	67.77	18.19	15.25	244.90
080	¥	49.27	66.34	16.01	17.82	193.70
026		57.58	68.10	18.34	14.92	239.50
044		53.71	61.19	20.54	18.27	183.25
059		61.67	68.57	17.56	15.13	217.70
067		58.46	67.5	19.46	14.54	241.30
019		53.50	69.97	16.17	15.12	205.03
0 32		56.40	65.47	19.07	16.26	214.10
031		58.50	68.83	17.68	14.86	217.70
035		52.40	61.53	25.93	14.18	192.30
Final con	mpositi o n				;):	ii .
007	1.06	61.85	63.76	20.07	16.77	405.50
082	0.97	61.66	60.96	23.74	16.15	350.18
056	1.21	63.03	61.40	25.23	14.78	344.70
039	1.08	63.08	59.91	26.94	14.62	350.20
022	1.16	60.00	67.35	19.06	14.93	322.05
054	1.08	59.86	64.56	22.86	14.21	337.90
050	1.01	62.1	62.49	24.82	14.29	367.40
034	0.97	61.72	63.37	23.9	14.32	342.50
038	1.07	60.42	70.02	18.93	13.12	326.60
051	1.13	61.46	69.45	17.04	14.88	328.40
058	0.99	64.40	67.47	22.22	12.60	346.50
045	0.74	61.25	66.51	18.84	15.68	254.00

TABLE 2. ENERGY ANALYSIS IN MEGACALORIES PER DAY

Bull no.	D.E. (1)	U.E. ⁽²⁾	G.P.E. ⁽³⁾	M.E. (4)	N.E.m ⁽⁵⁾	N.E.g. (6)
007	12.45	0.895	1.39	10.16	8.70	2.441
082	12.14	0.872	1.36	9.91	8.40	2.524
056	13.22	0.950	1.48	10.79	8.88	3.178
039	12.75	0.916	1.42	10.41	8.56	3.082
022	12.29	0.883	1.37	10.04	8.69	2.245
054	12.02	0.863	1.34	9.81	8.33	2.470
050	12.00	0.863	1.34	9.80	8.16	2.731
034	12.32	0.885	1.38	10.06	8.54	2.526
038	11.73	0.843	1.31	9.58	8.33	2.080
051	11.86	0.852	1.32	9.68	8.41	2.111
058	11.80	0.848	1.32	9.63	8.11	2.536
045	8.80	0.633	0.98	7.19	6.27	1.526

⁽¹⁾ DE = GE, (Digestion Coefficient determined from feed analysis)

⁽²⁾ UE = $4^{\frac{1}{2}}$ 5% of gross energy intake (Maynard and Loosli, 1969)

⁽³⁾ GPE = GPD = 7% of gross energy intake (Maynard and Loosli, 1969)

⁽⁴⁾ ME = DE - UE - GPE (Lofgreen, 1963)

⁽⁵⁾ NEm = ME - NEp (Lofgreen, 1963)

⁽⁶⁾ NEp determined from carcass analysis

TABLE 3. PROTEIN ANALYSIS IN GRAMS PER DAY

Bull no.	Microbial P. (1)	M.P. (2)	Net P. ⁽³⁾	N.P.g. (4)	N.P.m. (5)
007	344.142	268.431	161.06	120.0	40.60
082	335.311	261.543	156.93	101.0	55.93
056	364.557	284.354	170.61	126.0	44.61
039	352.358	274.839	164.90	111.0	53.90
022	339.402	264.734	158.84	123.0	35.84
054	331.958	258.927	155.36	108.6	46.76
050	331.846	258.840	155.30	106.0	49.30
034 .	340.379	265.496	159.30	102.0	57.30
038	323.538	252.353	151.41	117.0	34.41
051	327.446	255.408	153.24	130.6	22.64
. 058	324.691	253.259	151.96	118.0	33.96
045	242.802	189.386	113.63	84.0	29.63
	W				20

^{(1) 51.2} gms of microbial protein per kg of concentrate dry matter 25.6 gms of microbial protein per kg of roughage dry matter (Burroughs, 1970)

^{(2) (}Total microbial protein) .78 = metabolizable protein (Johnson, 1944)

^{(3) (}metabolizable protein) .60 = Total net protein (Burroughs, 1970)

⁽⁴⁾ Net protein for gain determined from carcass analysis

⁽⁵⁾ Net protein for maintenance = NP - NPg or (3) - (4)

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Maintenance

The daily energy and protein requirements of bulls for maintenance obtained were:

NEm(megacal) =
$$0.129 \text{ W}^{3/4}$$
 variation from $0.114 \text{ to } 0.145$
NPm(gms) = $0.660 \text{ W}^{3/4}$ variation from $0.400 \text{ to } 0.860$

Maintenance studies by Lofgreen, et al. (1968) give a value of 0.077 megacal per unit of metabolic body size as the requirement for maintenance for steers and heifers. In our study the bulls were non-confined under severe winter conditions. This apparently increases the amount of energy utilized for maintenance.

Smuts (1935) reported NPm = 0.88 W^{.734} based on data obtained from small laboratory animals. Differences in specific amino acid requirements among species and testosterone anabolic influence on protein synthesis could account for the difference between these two values.

Gain

Net energy requirements for daily carcass gain analysis gave the equation:

$$NE_g(kilocal) = (45.37 g - 8.4335 g^2) W^{3/4}$$

where g is the average daily gain in kilograms and W is the mid-weight in kilograms. The quadratic coefficient was nonsignificant (F = 0.37), resulting in a linear analysis that gave as a final result:

NEg = 36.41 g
$$W^{3/4}$$
 s.d. = ± 4.92

Lofgreen (1968) did a similar study with yearling steers and heifers on a live weight basis and obtained the following results: for steers,

NEg = $(52.72g + 6.84g^2)W^{3/4}$ and for heifers, NEg = $(56.03 + 12.65g^2)W^{3/4}$. When the bull carcass data was adjusted to a live weight basis the resulting equation was: NEg = $(51.09g + 0.8g^2)W^{3/4}$, where the quadratic coefficient also showed to be non-significant (F = 0.00).

Protein carcass requirements for gain was also analyzed concluding that:

$$NPg(gms) = 1.670 \text{ g W}^{3/4}$$
 s.d. = ± 0.18

Adjustment to a live weight basis gave:

$$NPg = 2.273 \text{ g W}^{3/4}$$
 s.d. = ± 0.462

These results show that bulls deposit less energy per unit weight gain than do steers or heifers, indicating a higher gain efficiency (Bailey, et al., 1966; Brown, et al., 1962; Field, et al., 1966; Hendrick, et al., 1969; Klosterman, et al., 1954; Turton, 1962) and a different composition and ratio of muscle, bone and fat during growth (Arthaud, et al., 1969; Berg, et al., 1968; Bidart, et al., 1970).

Application

Limitations in the variation range and the number of observations prevents absolute reliability in this results specially for different environmental conditions and breeds. Research in this area is needed in order to arrive at more definite conclusions.

The most useful application of these results would be in the calculation of feed required to produce a desired rate of gain. It is also possible to evaluate beef bulls based on their expected performance from their feed consumption.

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APPENDIX A

Net energy and protein utilized for maintenance

Equation: $Y_i = bx_i + e_i$ $Y_i = \text{energy or protein}$ used for maintenance

per day.

x_i = metabolic body size
 or W^{3/4} where W is
 the mid-weight in
 kilograms.

 e_i = sampling error (non-significant) $b = \frac{\text{Sum } x_i Y_i}{2}$

> where b is in grams for protein and in megacalories for energy.

APPENDIX B

Carcass energy gain analysis

linear coeff. = 45.373

quad. coeff. = -8.433

Analysis of Variance

Source	d. f.	mean sq.	F ratio
Total	12	1471.30	
linear	1	17389.60	716.77*
residual	11	24.30	¥ £
quadratic	1	9.41	.37
residual	10	25.75	
reduction	2	8699.50	3378.90

^{* (}P less than .005)

Final linear coefficient = 36.41 ± 4.92

Analysis of Variance

Source	d. f.	mean sq.	F ratio
Total	12	1471.38	
linear	1	17389.70	716.77
residual	11	24.26	N CONTRACTOR SE NO
reduction	1	17389.70	7167.68

APPENDIX C

Carcass protein gain analysis

linear coeff. = 2.068

quad. coeff. = -.369

Analysis of Variance

Source	d. f.	mean sq.	F ratio
Total	12	3.099	
linear	1, ,	36.840	1128.3
residual	11	0.032	
quadratic	1	0.018	0.53
residual	10	0.034	<u> </u>
reduction	2	18,429	

^{* (}P less than .005)

Final linear coefficient = 1.675 ± 0.18

Analysis of Variance

Source	d. f.	mean sq.	F ratio
	u. 1.	mean sq.	r Tatio
Total	12	3.099	9
linear	. 1	36.840	1128.3
residual	11	0.032	20° 20°
reduction	1	36.840	11282.9

NET ENERGY AND PROTEIN REQUIREMENTS FOR GAIN AND MAINTENANCE OF BEEF BULLS

by

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B. S., Kansas State University, 1970

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ABSTRACT

A study is presented for determination of net energy and net protein for maintenance and gain on a daily basis. Data from thirty-three bulls on trial indicate that for these animals net energy for maintenance requirements are approximately 0.129 megacalories per unit of metabolic body size $(W_{kg}^{3/4})$ and net protein for maintenance requirements near 0.66 gms. per unit of metabolic body size. The energy deposited in the weight gain of bull carcasses (NEg requirements) is represented by the equation NEg = 36.41 g $W^{3/4}$ where g is the average daily gain in kilograms. The protein deposited in the gain is defined by the equation NPg = 1.67 g $W^{3/4}$. Utilization of these requirements for ration calculation and performance evaluation can be very helpful.