

Supplementation of grazing Holstein steers with dried distiller's grains in combination with monensin. J. Lehmkuhler*, A. Crooks, and D. Undersander, *University of Wisconsin.*

Sixty Holstein steers rotationally grazed a mixed cool-season grass/legume forage base to study responses in performance when supplemented with dried distiller's grains with or without monensin. Treatments included non-supplemented control (CON), dried distiller's grains with solubles (DDG), DDG plus monensin (RDDG), and a mixture of ground corn, soybean meal and monensin (SBM) at similar levels of crude protein and ionophore as RDDG. Steers were randomly assigned to three grazing groups and treatments within each group. Steers receiving supplements were trained to Calan gates prior to pasture turnout. Twelve gates were placed within each grazing group to deliver supplements at a rate of 2 kg/hd/d. Supplementation was initiated after 53 d of grazing and continued for 88 d. Steers were implanted with a single Revalor G implant and administered an anthelmintic twice during the grazing season. Intermittent weights were collected monthly and average daily gain was calculated for each period, overall, pre-supplement, and supplement periods. Forage samples were collected at weekly intervals, composited by month and analyzed for quality. Initial weights were not equal across treatments and performance responses were analyzed with initial weight as a covariant. During the first portion of the pre-supplement period, CON steers tended ($P < 0.1$) to gain more rapidly than all other treatments. During the last two periods (64 d) of the supplementation period, DDG, RDDG and SBM posted greater ADG ($P < 0.05$) than CON. Additionally during the last 64 d, RDDG resulted in greater ADG ($P < 0.05$) in comparison to DDG with SBM being intermediate and similar ($P > 0.05$) to both. Supplementation increased performance of grazing Holstein steers by approximately 25% to 40% resulting in a supplement conversion of 5.8, 6.8, and 9.0 kg supplement/kg gain over control (RDDG, SBM, and DDG, respectively). Offering dried distiller's grains with an ionophore resulted in performance similar to a corn/soybean mixture. An additive response was observed when an ionophore was offered with dried distiller's grains. Badger State Ethanol for donation of dried distiller's grains.

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