

The effect of distillers dried grains with solubles as the protein source in a creep feed. P. Lancaster, J. Williams*, J. Corners, L. Thompson, D. McNamara, and M. Ellersieck, *University of Missouri, Columbia*.

A study was conducted to evaluate the effect of corn distillers dried grains with solubles (D) vs. soybean meal (S) as a protein source in a creep feed over 2 years. In yr 1 and 2, thirty-six steer calves (avg. 159.9 kg + 26.9 in yr 1; 184 kg + 12.7 in yr 2) were used to compare the effects of D and S on the performance of calves to traditionally weaned (C) calves prior to (68 d) and after weaning (112 d). Steers were randomly allotted by age to 6 endophyte-free tall fescue pastures in yr 1 and blocked by age within sire and randomly assigned to 3 of the same pastures in yr 2. The dietary supplements consisted of a cracked corn/soy hull mix with the protein source and were formulated to contain 14.2 % CP and 1.39 Mcal/kg of NEg. In both years, steers were placed in open dry lots upon weaning and adjusted to a receiving diet of cracked corn, soy hulls, and fescue hay with D and S treatments continued, while the C treatment received S as the protein source. After 112 d, steers were placed on a common urea based finishing diet. In yr 1 and 2, creep-fed calves had greater ($P < 0.01$) ADG than non-creep-fed calves during pasture phase (1.03 vs. 0.72 and 1.03 vs. .88 kg/d for year 1 and 2, respectively). In yr 1, the feed/extra gain was similar among treatments, while cost/kg of extra gain for D was lower ($P < 0.05$) than S (0.88 vs. 1.89, respectively). Weaning weight was greater ($P < 0.05$) for creep-fed than non-creep-fed calves (231.0 vs. 206.6 kg, respectively). There was a trend for creep-fed steers to have a greater ($P = 0.09$) ADG than non-creep-fed steers during the feedlot phase (1.66 vs. 1.57 kg/d, respectively). Creep-fed steers had greater ($P < 0.05$) final and hot carcass weights than non-creep-fed steers (537.2 vs. 496.7 and 329.2 vs. 300.0 kg for final and carcass weights, respectively). In yr 2, DMI, feed/extra gain, and cost/kg of extra gain were similar but total feed costs were lower ($P < 0.01$) for D than S during the pasture phase (13.88 vs. 18.31, respectively). Final performance and carcass data for yr 2 will be presented later. In conclusion, protein source had no effect on ADG, however DDGS reduced feed costs.

Key Words: DDGS, Creep Feeding, Rumen Undegradable Protein

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