



Studies on feeding home and readymade concentration on performance of heifers

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ABSTRACT

The study was conducted for a period of 12 weeks. Twelve heifers were divided into three groups on the nearness of age and weight basis. Three treatments viz., T₁- Readymade concentrate, T₂- Dry fodder + green fodder + homemade concentrate-I, T₃- Dry fodder + green fodder + homemade concentrate –II were studied. The proximate analysis of concentrate showed higher CP (25.26%) and EE (5.25%) in homemade concentrate-I while, homemade concentrate-II was higher in CF (12.01%). The daily dry matter intake per 100 kg body weight of heifers was higher in T₂ followed T₁ and T₃ treatments. Intake of DCP and TDN was higher in T₁ followed by T₃ and lowest in treatment T₂. The highest total body weight gain in body weight of heifers was observed in treatment T₂, followed by T₃ and lowest in treatment T₁. Growth performance viz., height, length and chest girth of heifers was more in T₂ treatment as compared to T₁ and T₃ treatments. The cost/ kg body weight gain was lowest in T₂ than T₁ and T₃ treatment. It was concluded from the results that the feeding of homemade concentrate-I was economical for growth performance of heifers.

KEY WORDS : Homemade concentrate, Readymade concentrate, Heifers, Adlibitum, Crude protein , Digestible crude protein, Dry matter

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INTRODUCTION

Growth is fundamental and common feature of all living being. Every animal is endowed at birth with certain capacity for growth and production and these inherited characters can be exploited to the fullest extent only with proper feeding and management to obtain adequate growth. Growth depends upon the genetic make up to the extent of only 30 per cent and feeding and management contribute remaining 70 per cent. Concentrate feeding plays an important role in growth, age at maturity, first conception, first calving in heifers.

The requirement for growth is more than that for maintenance. Since growth consists of an increase in the size of muscles, other soft tissue and skeleton. Large amount of proteins, minerals and vitamins must be provided

and also it is important that, dairy farmer should raise heifers of higher producing cows. Most of recent researches are diverted towards economical rearing of the calves with different feeding pattern the aim of this to have heifer which develop to a cow of optimum age and give maximum returns in respect of milk in her life time without utilizing traditional methods.

There are many firms in India which sell compounded livestock ration. However, due to lack of an efficient quality control system, it is difficult to say that this ration contains the required nutrients as per BIS or any other specified standard. There appears to be relationship between the effectiveness of different homemade and readymade feeding in eliciting a response, and the diet and nutritional demands of the animal.

Therefore, taking into consideration different homemade and readymade concentrate feedings, important role in growth of heifers, it was felt necessary to conduct investigation to study the effect and cost structure of different homemade and readymade concentrate feeding on growth performance of heifers.

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