FEED Facts

Forage Utilization

The Feed In A Drum® research has demonstrated that supplementation with The Feed In A Drum blocks can effectively improve forage intake and cattle performance. The consistent, economical intake of The Feed In A Drum supplements is seemingly small in comparison to the benefits realized by livestock. So how does such a small amount of supplement impact the animal in such a big way? The following report describes a study that was conducted by university researchers to determine the mode of action of The Feed In A Drum supplements.

Cattle Digestion Trial

Twelve steers averaging 640 pounds were used in an intake and digestion trial at the Kansas State University Beef Cattle Research Center. Treatments consisted of 1) no supplement, and 2) Range 30 MF supplement. Steers were kept in individual pens throughout the 18-day experiment. Cattle had free access to coarsely chopped prairie hay and water. All steers were fed approximately 0.7 ounces of plain salt each day. The Feed In A Drum blocks were broken into small pieces and fed once daily to the supplemented group at the rate of 0.9 lbs per head.

During the final 6 days of the experiment, total fecal output was measured for each animal. The proportions of dry matter, crude protein, neutral detergent fiber, and organic matter were subsequently determined for hay, blocks and feces. This made it possible to calculate total digestibility for each diet. Results of the digestion experiment are shown in Table 1.

Forage intake increased approximately 13% when Range 30 MF was fed to the cattle. Likewise, digestibility of the hay and of the total diet increased significantly by feeding The Feed In A Drum supplements.

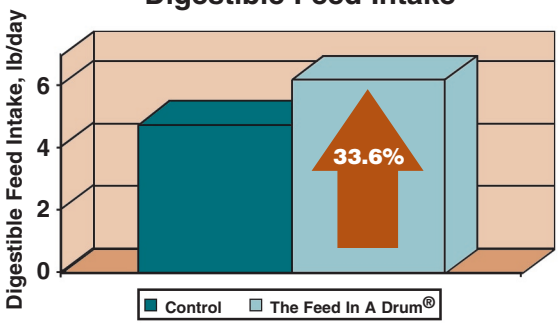
Table 1*

Effect of Supplementation Strategy on Feed Intake and Diet Digestibility

	Control	FIAD Range 30 MF	The Feed In A Drum Advantage %
Forage Intake, lbs/day			
Dry Matter	10.36	11.71	+13.0
Organic Matter	9.54	10.77	+12.9
Neutral Detergent Fiber	7.05	7.93	+12.5
Crude Protein	0.62	0.70	+12.9
Total Intake, lbs/day			
Dry Matter	10.36	12.58	+21.4
Organic Matter	9.54	11.38	+19.3
Neutral Detergent Fiber	7.05	7.97	+13.0
Crude Protein	0.62	0.94	+51.6
Digestibility, %			
Dry Matter	47.0	51.9	+10.4
Organic Matter	50.1	54.7	+9.2
Neutral Detergent Fiber	45.2	48.9	+8.2
Crude Protein	32.5	42.5	+30.8
Digestible Intake, lbs/day			
Dry Matter	4.88	6.52	+33.6
Organic Matter	4.78	6.22	+30.1
Neutral Detergent Fiber	3.17	3.90	+23.0
Crude Protein	0.21	0.40	+90.5

*** Kansas State University**

Digestible Feed Intake*



The high energy content of The Feed In A Drum blocks, combined with increases in forage intake and forage digestion resulted in large improvements in digestible feed intake. Digestible feed intake is a good indicator of total energy intake by the animal, and is a reasonable approximation of total diet TDN. Range 30 MF increased digestible feed intake by more than 33.6%, and increased digestible crude protein intake by over 90%.

Supplementing with The Feed In A Drum supplements provides essential nutrients that can improve utilization of low quality forages.

THE FEED in a DRUM®

feedinadrum.com