



Forage legume silage and cold-pressed rapeseed cake for dairy bull calves

IMPLICATIONS

When legume forage is fed together with energy-rich rapeseed cake a satisfactory calf weight gain can be achieved in an organic diet.

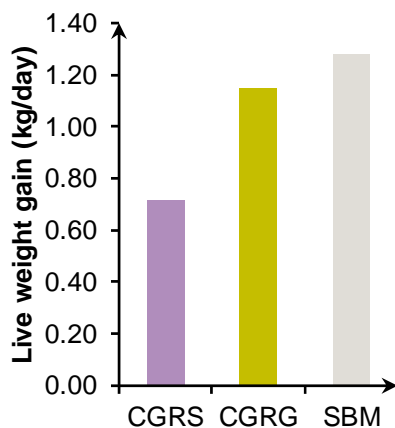
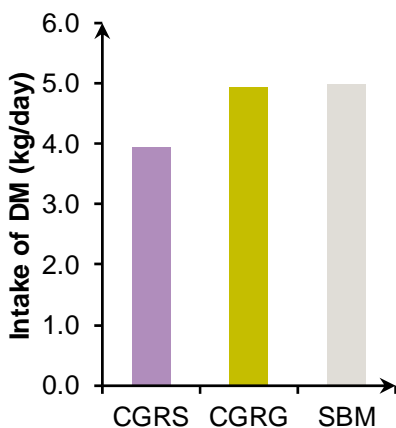
BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVE

Using locally produced protein feeds is of great interest because of environmental advantages. The aim of the study was to compare intake and weight gain in calves fed two levels of legume silage together with rapeseed cake vs. soya bean meal.

KEY RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

- CGRS - lowest feed intake and weight gain
- CGRG - same intake as SBM
- CGRG - lower weight gain than SBM

The protein in SBM is more rumen stable than in silage and rapeseed, but when legume silage and a greater amount of rapeseed is fed together the protein can be efficiently utilized.



METHOD

79 calves from 94 to 253 kg live weight, were fed total mixed rations including grass silage, barley, minerals and one of the protein treatments:

Clover/grass silage + 0.2 kg rapeseed (CGRS)

Clover/grass silage + 0.5 kg rapeseed (CGRG)

Imported soya bean meal (SBM), control

