

Agolin[®] Ruminant Split-Herd Trial Summary: More Milk, Less Feed



Feedworks USA recently completed nine split-herd trials measuring milk performance by cow and feed efficiency (DMI) by pen over three- to four-month periods. Only data collected from cows that remained in the test pens for the duration of the trial were used in the analyses. There were more than 6,000 cows included in the summary (half on Agolin Ruminant, half control), and seven of the nine herds had monensin in their diets. Results show an average 2.41-pound improvement in Energy Corrected Milk (ECM) with a 1.45-pound decrease in feed intake. The potential gains of more milk and less feed dwarf the \$0.05 cost per day as these trials demonstrate an average of over 12:1 benefit-to-cost ratio or a profit of \$0.60 per cow per day.

Split-Herd Trials Across the USA

Average Response of 9 Trials

Variable	Control	Test	Agolin Difference
Milk yield, lb	84.30	85.99	+1.69
Fat %	4.10	4.10	0.00
Protein %	3.16	3.17	+0.01
Fat yield, lb	3.34	3.44	+0.10
Protein yield, lb	2.58	2.66	+0.08
FCM, lb	90.82	92.99	+2.17
ECM, lb	89.21	91.62	+2.41
Milk yield change	-6.92	-4.41	+2.50
FCM change	-8.69	-6.37	+2.32
ECM change	-8.42	-5.87	+2.56
DMI, lb (by pen)	57.43	55.98	-1.45
ECM/DMI	1.55	1.64	+0.09 (+5.8%)

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more product information and research.

Determining the effectiveness of feed changes and feed additives is not an easy task

“As dairy producers know, average milk production per cow can change by several pounds from one day to the next. Additional factors come into play over weeks and months. With a 14-month calving interval as an example, eight percent of the herd turns over every month (two percent every week). The ratio of heifers to mature cows does not remain constant. Pen changes can result in temporary slumps. Season and even day-to-day weather events impact production. Feed ingredient changes need to be made, and even simple factors, like changes in silage moisture can affect milk or component yields. These normal events create noise that makes it very difficult to determine the impact of smaller feed modifications.”

– DR. ESSI EVANS, PRESIDENT OF E+E TECHNICAL ADVISORY SERVICES

Ensuring accurate results

Feedworks USA implements side-by-side testing to generate sound information on Agolin's effect on energy corrected milk yield and feed efficiency. These results were all determined on working farms – typical operations that deal with the many daily events that impact milk production.

Parameters for the side-by-side feeding trials:

- Test and control pens are paired for production, age and days in milk.
- Test and control pens receive the same diet, with the exception of the additive.
- Only data from individual cows that have received their treatment (test or control) for the entire period are used. If a cow enters or leaves the pen during the trial, her results are not used.

Bottom line: The treated cows and the control cows are all exposed to the same conditions, the same environmental factors and the same feed ingredient changes for the exact same period. This set-up allows

Feedworks USA to eliminate the noise that results in changes in the day-to-day events that are normal in the dairy industry.

“Few products can claim to help the environment and help the bottom line at the same time. Agolin can,” says Dr. Essi Evans.

According to Dr. Evans, “The productive improvements that occur with Agolin are proven and cost-effective. They are also gradual and subtle. The bulk tank will not overflow immediately after the product goes into use.”

Research shows that the maximum benefit from feeding Agolin is seen after about five weeks of use. “The increase in fat and protein corrected milk yield is between four to five percent,” adds Dr. Evans. “Likewise, the improvement in feed efficiency will occur gradually. This amount is meaningful but subtle enough to be difficult to discern from the normal fluctuation in milk production.”



To learn more about Agolin Ruminant and the research trials, please contact your Feedworks USA representative.

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