

Feeding and nutrition of european cows

Objectives of the present study were to compare the feeding and nutrition of European cows at the University Farm with the NRC standards. Five Cows were selected and reared under intensive management condition with stall feeding. All cows were fed with only one diet. Forages were fed harvested from the University premises and, fed *ad libitum*. Cows were fed with two types of concentrates namely, dairy mash and rice (*Oryza sativa*) bran (3:1). Half of the ration was fed in the evening. Water was freely available for all cows throughout the day.

The preliminary period and collection period of the experiment were two months and one month respectively. Feeds and refusals were weighed and intake was measured. Samples of feed and refusals were taken for chemical analysis. Treatment Means were compared by Duncan,s New Multiple Range Test.

According to the results, edible portion of the given roughages were around 95%. These roughages were collected from the University premises while clearing the area for landscape purposes, but not for feeding of cows. Crude protein content of dairy mash, rice bran and forges, were 17%, 5% and 8.5% whereas, *in vitro* dry matter digestibility were 60%, 46% and 40% respectively. Dry matter intakes of cows were lower than the maximum dry matter intake by a cow of that weight.

Metabolizable Energy Intake (MEI) and Digestible Crude Protein Intake (DCPI) of cows were less than the required MEI and DCPI for the potential milk yield. Quality of roughages provided to the cows at the farm were not good enough for milking cows. Low supplementations of ME and DCPI to cows were not because of low dry matter but because of low quality of roughages.