FEED/FODDER

NPARR 4(3), 2013-0257 Dairy cattle, green fodder feeding practices in milkshed and non-milkshed areas of Bikaner district (Rajasthan)

Green fodder was available in plenty during rainy season, while in summer season very less quantity of green fodder was available to the animals, whereas only 5.55% in milkshed area and 4.44% in non-milkshed area cattle keepers' fed green fodder to their cattle's throughout the year. Types of green fodder fed to dairy cattle were grasses (Sewan and Bhurut), moth Bajra and jawar chari are predominantly green fodder in both the areas. However, a small percentage (5.55% in milkshed and 4.44% in non-milkshed) of farmers fed lucerne and Berseem. Majority (75.55%) of the dairy cattle keepers produced more than 200 quintals green fodder in milkshed area, whereas in non-milkshed area was produced this quantity by 53.33% farmers. Season wise consumption of green fodder was significantly higher in milkshed areas as compared to non-milkshed area in rainy season. Significantly higher (86.67%) percent of cattle keeper chopped the green fodder before feeding to dairy cattle in milkshed area. The significant effect on operation flood program of milkshed area was observed towards chaffing of green fodder. However feeding green fodder, self sufficiency in green fodder production had no significant difference in milkshed and non-milkshed areas [Ramavtar Sharma, Environment and Ecology, 2013, 31(1), 25-28].

NPARR 4(3), 2013-0258 An assessment of nutrient content of underutilized grass species of South India

In the past and now most of the developments in conventional agriculture have concentrate on major grasses with little attention to the minor, underutilized grasses and as yet undeveloped grasses of livestock. Many underutilized grass species are being lost each day and more of which have unknown potential will be lost. The present study is undertaken to carry out the nutrient content of twenty grass species of family Poaceae, commonly found in waste lands of South India to screen some nutritive values. The moisture content of the grass species varied between 42% to 71%, protein content 1.66% to 5.43%, sugar 1 % to 3.54%, starch from 7% to 17.74% and cellulose ranged from 1.79% to 7.60% of dry weight. Among the twenty grass species Eragrostis amabilis showed high nutritive value, followed by Cynodon dactylon, Pycreus flavidus, Digitaria sanguinalis and Brachiaria racemosa. Hence, these grass species of high nutritive value can be choosen for feeding the live stock [Hari Babu R and N. Savithramma, International Journal of Pharma & Bio Sciences, 2013, 4(3), pB-334-B-340].

NPARR 4(3), 2013-0259 Feeding management practices of dairy farmers under village conditions of Tamil Nadu

A survey was conducted in three blocks of Namakakkal district by selecting 50 dairy cooperative society farmers per block, totaling 150 farmers. The data on the concentrate feed, green and dry fodder resources, feeding management practices were collected from the selected farmers by personal contact, using pre-tested schedule. The overall average number of cows available per farmer was 3.12. Except one farmer, all the farmers had followed individual feeding system. In general, majority of the farmers followed sorghum fodder feeding either alone or combined with field grass or Co-3 grass. In dry fodder feeding, maximum number of farmers used sorghum stover either singly or in combination with either paddy straw or groundnut hay. Maximum number of farmers had green fodder availability either only during post monsoon period or during rainy season or both. Majority of the farmers derived the green fodder either from cultivation or collected from field.
Only about one-fourth of the farmers had green fodder availability throughout the year. Average dry matter intake for milch cattle, pregnant cum dry animal and calves through concentrate, green and dry fodder were 3.04, 2.37, 3.29; 1.06, 1.60, 2.75; and 0.32, 0.39, 0.91 kg, respectively. 91.33 per cent of the farmers had poor knowledge on improvement of fat and SNF content of milk and only 8 per cent had fair knowledge. Only 6.67 per cent farmers attempted either mineral mixture or calcite for improvement of fat and SNF content of milk and experienced positive response [Singh, D. A. P.; Saravanakumar, V. R.; Sivakumar, K.; Ramesh, V. and Muralidharan, J., Indian Journal of Field Veterinarians, 2013, 8(4), 11-13].

NPARR 4(3), 2013-0260 Feeding of safflower (Carthamus tinctorius) cake in small ruminant total mixed rations: effects on growth traits and meat fatty acid composition

Little scientific information is available that has evaluated safflower (Carthamus tinctorius) cake as a substitute to conventional ingredients in small ruminants diet. The objective of this work was to evaluate the effect of feeding safflower cake in total mixed rations (TMRs) on lamb and kid growth rates, carcass traits and meat fatty acid composition. Two consecutive trials were conducted using Comisana breed lambs and Gorganica breed kids. Animals were randomly allocated to two isocaloric and isonitrogenous TMRs formulated to meet or exceed nutritional requirements, and consisted of the control diet and an experimental diet contained safflower cake. Animals were slaughtered after the feeding trial which lasted 50 days and the carcass traits and meat quality were evaluated. In both slaughter trials, none of the parameters studied were (P>0.05) influenced by dietary treatments except for slaughter weight and cold-carcass dressing that were improved in lambs fed safflower. Feeding the safflower diet resulted in significantly lower saturated fatty acid (SFA) content in meat, as well as the n-6/n-3 polyunsaturated fatty acid (PUFA) ratio and satiation, atherogenic and thrombogenic indexes, while total PUFA and monounsaturated fatty acids (MUFA) as well as the indices related to human health increased. These results suggest that including safflower cake in diet for small ruminants can produce meat with an improved meat lipid profile. As result, safflower maintained carcass yields with no detrimental effect on meat quality [Tufarelli, V., Vicenti, A., Ragni, M., Pinto, F. and Selvaggi, M., Iranian Journal of Applied Animal Science, 2013, 3(2), 243-247].