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Nutrient Recommendations for Holstein Steers^a

Nutrient	Body Weight Ranges	
	100-300 kg	300-575 kg
Dry matter, ave kg/day	5.5	9.0
Crude protein, %	15.0	12.0
Calcium, %	0.8	0.45
Phosphorus, %	0.35	0.30
Potassium, %	0.65	0.65
Sulfur, %	0.10	0.10
Salt, %	0.30	0.30
Vitamin A, IU/kg	3300	3300
Vitamin D, IU/kg	300	300
Vitamin E, IU/kg	30	10
Rumensin, mg/day	125	300

^aConcentrations expressed on diet dry matter basis

Suggested Proportions in Diet

Cattle need to be gradually adjusted to diets with low proportions of forage. It would be desirable to start cattle on a diet containing 50% forage and gradually decrease the forage proportion while increasing the grain proportion over a 21 to 28 day period. Shelled corn can be fed effectively in combination with corn silage or hay. The recommended minimum proportion of corn silage in the diet dry matter is 10% and likewise the minimum for hay is 5%. Wheat and barley are grains which when fed as large proportions of the diet are more likely to cause cattle to lose appetite. Until you have gained experience, I suggest that the minimum forage proportion in diets containing wheat and/or barley are 40% for corn silage and 20% for hay. You may wish to further decrease these proportions of corn silage or hay, but you will find that excellent feeding management is needed to maintain consistently high feed intakes of the cattle. The diets will need to be very consistent in terms of ingredient proportions and uniformly mixed. Cattle can be fed once or twice per day, but feeding needs to occur at the same time every day. Increases in amount of feed offered to the animals once they are receiving the highest proportion of barley or wheat need to be made in small increments separated by two to three days. The goal is to have most of the animals in a pen eating at nearly the same time and for the pen to fluctuate very little in daily feed consumption. Dry rolling of barley or wheat will improve digestibility somewhat but this processing method is not essential. For all of the grains, fine grinding which results in small particle sizes should be avoided because this can cause cattle to lose their appetite and fluctuate in daily feed intake.