

June 29, 2012

NEW TECHNOLOGY WITH DISTILLERS SOLUBLES

Dennis Bauer, Extension Educator from Brown, Keya Paha and Rock Counties in Nebraska, has posted a video on his website of a new technology using Distillers Grain Condensed Solubles (CCDS). Dennis was the one we invited to the Saline Center and Beatrice cow-calf meetings this year. The video clip on his website shows the application process of spraying CCDS on ground hay. They use 80 gallons to be applied to each bale (approximately 1,300 pounds each). The hay was tested prior to the CCDS application on a dry matter basis. The results were crude protein 7.1%; TDN 54%; and fat 1.2%. After treatment of the liquid solubles, the hay tested crude protein 11.3%; TDN 62.3% and fat 4.1% average of three tests.

The treated ground hay was fed to cow-calf pairs. No spoilage or feeding problems occurred. Go online to see the video at: <http://bkr.unl.edu/> or Dennis Bauer, BKR Extension Educator, can give you more information at 402-387-2213 or dbauer1@unl.edu.

On another subject, working with UNL beef specialist Rick Rasby at UNL, I posed the question with the increase in distillers grain price what is cheaper, feeding distillers with straw or ammoniating wheat straw?

Treatment of low quality crop residues with anhydrous ammonia improves digestibility or total digestible nutrients (TDN) and increases consumption of these forages. The positive effects of ammonia treatment on digestibility and intake of low quality forages make them a viable possibility in feeding programs. John Ward's work at UNL indicated years ago, you can maintain weight of a gestating beef cow with ammoniated wheat straw fed free access. You still need mineral and vitamin mix and after calving to meet energy and protein needs there would need to be an adjustment in diet. Ammoniated straw alone will not allow much gain on backgrounding calves.

So my question was with \$670 a ton anhydrous and 50% DDGS at \$139 per ton at the ethanol plant, what is cheaper for a cow-calf operation, treating the straw with anhydrous or utilizing distillers grain?

Bottom line was \$1.47/cow/day feed costs (need mineral and vitamin mix) with ammoniated straw vs. \$1.32/cow/day feed costs with limit-fed straw and modified distillers. So the breakeven is close but distillers still wins with lower cost. Labor was not considered in this analysis. The key is availability of distillers grains and getting it purchased at the right price.



If you have not gone to the beef.unl.edu website at UNL you need to see all the resources that are posted for beef producers. There is an update on drought resources for beef producers, management options during heat stress weather, future forage potential for cattle on pastures, management strategies on drylotting beef cows, replacing summer pasture, grazing pasture when pasture is limited and recent producer questions.

The website also has an excellent update on storage methods for distillers grains at: beef.unl.edu/byproducts.shtml. If July weather does not give us a break, dryland grain producers that also have livestock will have new opportunities for forage on wheat stubble ground, grazing maize, silage and distillers grains with low quality forages.

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