

WRINKLE

A NEW UNDERSTANDING IN NUTRITION



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How Do DDGS Positively Impact Pasture Conservation?

RESEARCH SUMMARY

Supplementing pasture-fed cattle with dried distillers grains with solubles (DDGS) at 1.1% of body weight improved average daily gain and decreased pasture consumption compared with control cows fed no DDGS. Interestingly, when supplemented with DDGS at only 0.5% of body weight, cattle still gained more than cattle fed a control diet, but pasture consumption did not differ. This suggests that producers may need to adopt different strategies when using DDGS supplementation to increase body weight gain or conserve pasture.

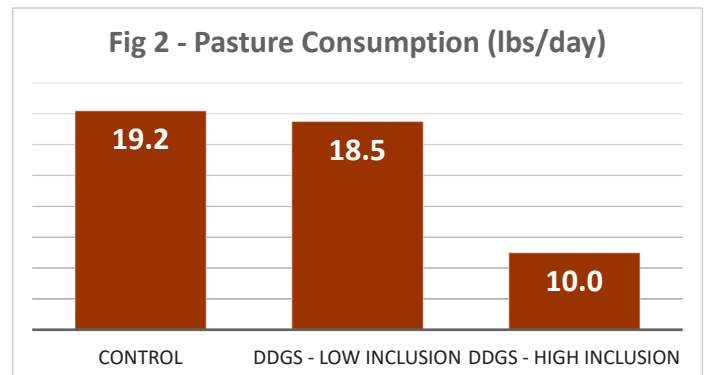
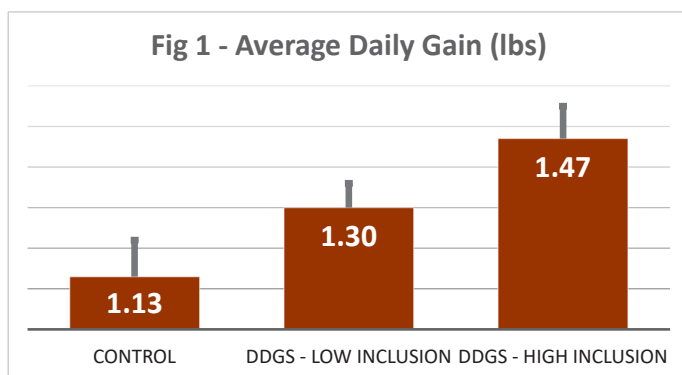
BACKGROUND

We sometimes incorrectly assume that supplementing grazing cattle with a source of protein or energy will result in cattle consuming less pasture. However, research from Iowa State University suggests a different response.

Researchers assigned 88 Angus heifers to one of three research treatments. The first treatment consisted of heifers on pasture only. Heifers on the second treatment grazed pasture and received a DDGS supplement at 0.5% of body weight. Heifers on the final treatment grazed pasture and received a DDGS supplement at 1.1% of body weight.

RESULTS

- Heifers fed more DDGS had greater daily gain than heifers on the control treatment or those heifers fed less DDGS.
- Heifers supplemented with more DDGS consumed less pasture than the other treatments.
- Although heifers supplemented with less DDGS gained more than heifers on the control treatment, estimated pasture consumption did not differ between these two treatments.



These results demonstrate that simply providing a supplement will not necessarily result in less pasture consumption. In fact, depending on forage quality and availability, supplementing a source of protein can sometimes increase forage consumption because of improvements in digestibility.

However, these results also show that supplementing DDGS at a greater inclusion can effectively conserve pasture and improve animal performance. This becomes important during periods of drought, poor pasture quality, or when hay prices increase relative to DDGS prices.

Please contact POET Nutrition for more information on strategies for feeding distillers grains to optimize your profitability.

*These results are not a guarantee of nutritional value, as laboratory results are influenced by factors beyond the control of POET Nutrition.