



Advantage Feeders



GRAIN ASSIST LIFTS CATTLE GROWTH



An on-farm trial found that a mob of rising two-year-old steers given access to 1kg of grain, formulated to balance their overall diet, **ate significantly less forage crop compared to the control mob which did not have access to the grain.**

RESULTS

The supplement mob grew an average of 1.5kg/day, 0.5kg/day more than the control mob over the 60 day trial. The per-head cost of the grain was 70c/day and the additional carcass weight gain was worth \$1.40/day.

A big surprise was the amount of crop saved.

The control mob was consuming 9kg of forage and 2kg of hay. The other group that had 1kg/day of grain only consumed 6kg of forage – simply because they were using the feed more efficiently.

PROFIT INCREASED
\$60/HEAD
WITH LOWER
FORAGE
CONSUMPTION

TRIAL OUTLINE

Duration:	60 days
Quantity:	60 in each group
Stock:	Rising 2yo steers
Feed type:	Control group: Forage rape and hay
	Supplement group: Forage rapes, hay and barley



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ABOUT THE TRIAL OPERATOR

Matt and Lynley Wyeth have a 1000 Ha property, 'Spring Valley', outside Masterton, NZ, that supports 600 Angus cattle and 10,000 high performance sheep.

INCREASED PROFIT FROM HIGHER STOCKING RATES AND BETTER FODDER CONVERSION

Decreasing forage consumption from 9kg to 6kg per day means that 90 steers with a cereal supplement are able to graze the same amount of forage of 60 steers without a supplement. With an added profit of \$32.50/head, the total increased profit is \$2,950.

With a consumption of 32,400kgDM, this amounts to an added profit of \$0.09/kgDM.

OPPORTUNITY FOR HIGHER PROFITS

Areas of the South Island have access to cheaper cereal feeds than where this trial was conducted – in the Wairarapa. If cereal feed is purchased for \$0.45/kg, profit increases 46% from \$32.50/head to \$47.50/head.

Added income

Added weight gain (kg)	30
Value of weight gain/kg	\$2.80
ADDED INCOME/head	\$84.00

Added feeding expenses

Labour in filling feeders (4 times for 1 hour)	\$240.00
Barley cost (60 steers for 60 days at 1kg/head/day for \$0.70/kg)	\$2,520.00
Depreciation* (15% on a \$2200 investment)	\$330.00
TOTAL ADDED EXPENSES	\$2,190.00
ADDED EXPENSES/head	\$51.50

*Assumes the annual depreciation is incurred only over this 60 day period

Added income versus added expenses per head

