



OVERTON VETERINARY SERVICES

75348 Road 440

Lexington, NE 68850

Phone: 1-308-324-7202

Fax: 1-308-324-7203

Drs. Robert Larson, Roy Gehrt, Lance Kizer, John Lawton, Jared Walahoski

Feeding wet distillers grains with solubles (WDGS corn by-product) to cows and heifers during gestation and lactation: 5-12 lbs/head/day is about all you need

March 2010

It has become very common for our cattle producers to utilize wet distillers grain with solubles as supplemental cow (and heifer) feed during the winter months. As such, we are getting more and more questions on when to feed, how much to feed, etc. There is an excellent review of the feeding value of WDGS at the following website:

http://www.nebraskacorn.org/publications/beefcoprod_08_2007.pdf

From our observations, feeding WDGS has been accepted as a “good thing” for cows and heifers. As such, “let’s feed a little more!” seems to be commonplace. This is when we start to see some problems during calving and into early lactation.

A few things you need to know about the distillers you are buying and using:

Dry Matter Percentage: This can vary from 35% to 50% depending on the product. If you are feeding 10 lbs of a 35% dry matter WDGS, this equates to 3.5 lbs of dry matter, or about 13.5% of the total cow diet. But, 10 lbs of a 50% dry matter product equates to 5 lbs of dry matter or almost 20% of the total cow diet.

Protein Percentage: Expressed on a dry matter basis this will usually range from 26 – 33% crude protein.

Phosphorus and Sulfur Levels: Ask your provider for information regarding the level of phosphorus and sulfur routinely analyzed in their product. Phosphorus may range 0.7 – 1.2% on a dry matter basis and sulfur could be as high as 0.7% on a dry matter basis. Both of these elements are crucial in the final design of the diet. As long as intakes never exceed 5 lbs of WDGS on a dry matter basis (20% of the total dry matter in the diet) it should not be a factor.

Feeding rates: On the second page are a series of Gestation and Lactation diet examples for beef cows. During gestation 5-8 lbs of WDGS (35% Dry Matter) provides adequate protein and energy with the other forages being fed. During lactation 8-12 lbs of WDGS (35% Dry Matter) provides adequate protein and energy with the other forages being fed. The OVS Calving DDS Mineral is specifically formulated to feed with WDGS rations, providing adequate calcium, magnesium, trace minerals, and Vitamins. Detailed ration specifications are available on request – please call us at any time to assist in reviewing your cattle diets.

Overton Veterinary Services LLC

**1300 lb Cow Ration Specifications
(Examples)**

	Cost/Ton	Gestation into Calving				
		Weight Gain with higher Net Energy →				
Prairie Hay 10% CP	\$ 60.00			4	4	12
Sudan Grass Hay 9% CP	\$ 60.00	18	12	4	4	12
Alfalfa Hay 16-18% CP	\$ 80.00			4		5
Oat Hay 8-9% CP	\$ 80.00				4	
CornStover 5-6% CP (bales or field)	\$ 40.00		12	16	16	
Dry Winter Pasture 4%CP, 90%DM	\$ 16.00	10				
Corn Silage 160-200 bus, 38% DM	\$ 30.00		10			
Wet Distillers Grains w/Sol, 35% DM	\$ 60.00	8	5	5	6	6
OVS Calving DDS Mineral	\$820.00	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25
	NRC					
Average Lbs Fed - As-Is		36.25	39.25	33.25	34.25	35.25
Dry Matter %		74.4	66.09	77.88	76.32	76.6
Dry Matter Lbs Fed	23.6	26.97	25.94	25.89	26.14	27
Crude Protein % DMB	7.7	9.61	9.4	10.35	9.38	12.89
NEm Mcal/lb (Energy)	0.48	0.45	0.49	0.51	0.49	0.54
Total Mcal Met.Energy	20.4	24.6	24.92	24.63	24.55	26.23
Ca% DMB	0.26	0.74	0.7	0.76	0.68	0.8
P% DMB	0.21	0.23	0.21	0.2	0.2	0.24
Mg% DMB	0.18	0.28	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.26
Vitamin A IU/hd/day	30000	59000	59000	59000	59000	59000
Vitamin E IU/hd/day		276	276	276	276	276
Cost per head per Day		\$0.97	\$1.01	\$0.98	\$1.01	\$1.21

	Cost/Ton	1-2 weeks after calving: Lactation				
Prairie Hay 10% CP	\$ 60.00			7		10
Sudan Grass Hay 9% CP	\$ 60.00	20	12	7	20	
Alfalfa Hay 16-18% CP	\$ 80.00			5		5
Oat Hay 8-9% CP	\$ 80.00			7		
CornStover 5-6% CP (bales or field)	\$ 40.00		12			12
Dry Winter Pasture 4%CP, 90%DM	\$ 16.00	6				
Corn Silage 160-200 bus, 38% DM	\$ 30.00		8		16	
Wet Distillers Grains w/Sol, 35% DM	\$ 60.00	12	9	8	8	7
OVS Calving DDS Mineral	\$820.00	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25
	NRC					
Average Lbs Fed - As-Is		38.25	41.25	34.25	44.25	34.25
Dry Matter %		69.1	64.44	74.1	58.1	75.58
Dry Matter Lbs Fed	24.3	26.43	26.58	25.38	25.71	25.89
Crude Protein % DMB	9	11.47	10.52	13.45	11.62	12.89
NEm Mcal/lb (Energy)	0.52	0.48	0.51	0.56	0.53	0.54
Total Mcal Met.Energy	22	25.15	26.01	24.92	25.75	26.23
Ca% DMB	0.27	0.73	0.68	0.77	0.71	0.8
P% DMB	0.22	0.27	0.24	0.27	0.27	0.24
Mg% DMB	0.18	0.3	0.3	0.26	0.29	0.26
Vitamin A IU/hd/day	46000	59000	59000	59000	59000	59000
Vitamin E IU/hd/day		276	276	276	276	276
Cost per head per Day		\$1.11	\$1.10	\$1.25	\$1.19	\$1.21