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SUPPLEMENTING DIFFERENT LEVELS OF OPTIGEN AS A REPLACER TO SOYBEAN ON STEER'S PERFORMANCE

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This study were conducted to evaluate the effect of using Optigen feed additives as a replacer to soybean meal in the diet of fattening Holistien. Fifteen steers with an average initial weight 260.26 ± 13.25 kg and aged seven months were divided into three groups (five in each) based on initial body weight and age. Steers were housed under open sheds. Steers in the first group were fed the control ration (without additives) while the steers in the second and third groups were fed the control ration with addition 75 or 100 gm of Optigen II (Alltech, Lexington, KY) as a replacer to 0.450 kg of soybean meal which is represented as 1.35% on dry matter basis (Opt. 75) or 100 gm Optigen II (Alltech, Lexington, KY) as a replacer to 0.560 kg of soybean meal which is represented of 1.84 % on dry matter basis (Opt. 100) for 105 days. Dry matter intake, nutrients apparent digestibility, rumen activity, growth performance and economic efficiency were determined. The results showed that dry matter intake, organic matter, crude protein, ether extract and crude fiber as well as total digestible nutrients (TDN) and digestible crude protein (DCP) were not affected by the different experimental diets. The animals in G2 (Opt.75) had the highest digestibility coefficients of all nutrients followed by animals in G3 (opt. 100), while the control group had the lowest values. The nutritive values expressed as TDN or DCP for animals in G2 (Opt. 75) and G3 (Opt. 100) were slightly higher ($P>0.05$) compared with the control group. There were no significant differences ($p>0.05$) in pH value among the different experimental group during the trial.

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