

ADOPT A PROJECT - 20211032

20211032 - Growing fodder as an alternative feed
Account: Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association
Total Funds Requested: \$14,900
Funded: Yes
Amount: \$3,000

Objectives:

Determine whether there is any benefit to growing fodder on livestock operations versus conventional feeding methods by analyzing its potential production, nutritional, and economic benefit

Why is this Important?

- 1) Farm in Saskatchewan have said they "drought-proofed" their farm
- 2) hydroponically grown barley improved milk yield by 8.7% compared to corn silage
- 3) Could improve metabolized energy
- 4) Can reduce anti-nutritional factors on low-quality feeds such as phytic acid
- 5) Could allow producers to reallocate land
- 6) Economics of production need to be analyzed

Methodology:

- 1) Compare treatment group, fed fodder daily on top of typical ration.
- 2) Compared to cattle in control group, planned on silage diet with grain in place of fodder.
- 3) Assess average daily gain, feed efficiency, nutrient content of rations, cost of production, and feed quality.

Notes:

We are administrating this project. Putting some funding in it would likely help as well. This was discussed at a Board meeting as well.

Summary:

Moisture conditions are quite variable throughout Saskatchewan, though the needs of feed for our cattle herds remain consistent.

The project demonstrates the use of a fodder growing system that would "drought-proof" farms and ranches through the use of hydroponically grown barley, and compares it to conventional feeding methods.