

SoyPLUS® Feeding Trial

Location: Mendes and Sons Dairy - Lemoore, California

Number of cows: 837

Eight hundred thirty seven cows were utilized in a switchback designed feeding trial to compare SoyPLUS and 46% solvent soybean meal in rations for lactating dairy cows. The initial ration contained solvent soybean meal as the primary protein source and performance was monitored for 14 days.

The cows were then switched to SoyPLUS for the next 14 day period, with SoyPLUS substituted for the solvent soybean meal on a pound-for-pound basis. The SoyPLUS feeding regime was followed by a switchback to the solvent meal for the final 14 day period.

Both soybean meals were fed at an average of 3.3 pounds per head daily. The SoyPLUS substitution resulted in a 1.0% reduction in total protein fed but increased total bypass protein fed by about 7.0%. For this trial, SoyPLUS was priced at \$250 per ton, with solvent meal at \$210 per ton.

This greater value for SoyPLUS resulted in an increased feed cost of about seven cents per head per day. When cows were switched to SoyPLUS, milk production, milk fat, milk protein, energy corrected milk, milk value, and income per cow all increased.

When compared to an average of the two solvent meal feeding periods, the inclusion of SoyPLUS will generate an additional annual net income of more than \$18,000 for Mendes and Sons Dairy.

Period	Cows	DIM	ECM *	Milk Value	Income/Cow
1st 14 days (Solvent)	837	175	68.2	\$11.27/cwt	\$7.60/day
2nd 14 days (SoyPLUS)	837	175	70.5	\$11.39/cwt	\$7.82/day
3rd 14 days (Solvent)	837	175	69.1	\$11.36/cwt	\$7.71/day

* = Energy corrected milk in pounds.