

**OBSERVATIONS ON PERFORMANCE OF CALVES REARED BY RESTRICTED SUCKLING AND SUPPLEMENTED WITH EITHER RICE POLISHINGS OR GREEN BANANAS: F J Alvarez, G Saucedo and A Arriaga; Centro Demostrativo en Produccion Animal C41 FIRA, Banco de Mexico. S.A., Cardenas Tabasco**

Calves of about 100 kg initial weight, in a restricted suckling system, were supplemented with 0.70 kg/d rice polishing or 7.5 kg/d chopped green bananas. They also consumed 0.75 kg/d of molasses containing 10% urea, and grazed for 8 hr daily. Liveweight gains over 86 d period were 423 and 445 g/d (Sex  $\pm$  24) for the two supplements respectively.

**Key words:** Calves, restricted suckling, banana fruit supplement.

Thirty calves, the progeny of Holstein or Brown Swiss x Zebu cows which had been mated with Holstein or Brown Swiss sires (by A1) were managed according to a restricted suckling system (Alvarez et al 1980). On reaching mean liveweight of about 100kg (about 180 d) they were allocated to 2 groups which received either 0.70 kg/d rice polishing or 7.5 kg/d chopped immature green bananas. The remainder of the diet was molasses with 10% urea and grazing for 8 hr daily on Bermuda Cross 1 pasture, in addition to the suckled milk estimated at 2 litres/d.

There were no differences in rate of liveveight gain between the two treatments, which supports the conclusion of McEvoy and Preston(1977) that green bananas has a high nutritive value when fed in combination with molasses containing 10% urea.

*Performance of crossbred calves reared by restricted suckling and supplemented with either rice polishing or green bananas (Trial period was 86 d)*

	Rice polishings	Green bananas	SE <sub>x</sub>	Significance
No. of calves	15	15		
Initial weight, kg	94.5	104.7		
Final weight, kg	130.9	142.5		
Daily gain, g	423	445	$\pm$ 24	0.54
Feed intake, kg/d				
Rice polishings	0.70	-		
Green bananas	-	7.5		
Molasses (10% urea)	.75	.75		
Milk	2.00	2.00		
Grazing	-8 hr daily-			

#### References

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Received 8 April 1981