



comfort. In this study no illness signs were observed. These data indicate that Cr-Met affects body core temperature and standing behavior although blood metabolites and performance traits did not change. Cr-Met have been shown to decrease rectal temperature in several studies. Data on the effects of Cr-Met on animal behavior is rare and more researches are required.

Key Words: Chromium methionin, growing steers, rectal temperature, standing behavior

Body condition score, is it a risk factor for lameness?

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Lameness is one of the most significant challenges in the dairy industry. Extensive effects of lameness on herd performance are reported includes milk loss, impaired reproductive performance and finally lameness. Locomotion Scoring system have been used to distinguish the degree of lameness. Cows categorize into 1 to 5 from normal to severely lame.

Energy reserves in the form of fat and muscle (a.k.a. body condition) are extremely important for reproduction success. Body Condition Score (BCS) range from 1 “very thin cows” to 5 “severely over conditioned cows”. Ideal condition scores fall in the range

of 3 to 4 at dry off and calving and 2.5 to 3.5 at peak lactation.

This current study was done in a dairy herd with average of 4700 productive (Milking and dry) cows from March 2013- February 2014. Cows housed in free stall barns bedded with sand, milk three times a day and feed by total mixed ratio. The average annual milk production recorded as 40.47 lit/day. Body condition scoring was done on monthly basis by a 5 point scale by a single observer. BCS was done to accomplish management processes. Locomotion scoring also was done on a monthly basis on a five point scale that cows with score 1 known as sound and cows with score 5 known as severely lame cows by a single veterinarian. Locomotion scores 1-3 considered as non-lame and locomotion scores 4 and 5 consider as lame in data analysis.

Total of 49754 cows scored during 12 month (average 4146.16 ± 244.54). 6.64% scored 2 and less, 30.65% scored 2-3 and 62.69% scored more than 3 during this study.

Group 1 consist of cows with BCS 2 and less, group two consist of cows with BCS between two and three and cows with 3 and higher BCS assigned in group three. Kruskal-Wallis test showed a significant difference between lameness occurrence in different groups under study, as cows in groups one and three showed more lameness than group two ($P < 0.05$). Lameness maybe a result of high body condition score and also maybe a cause for low body condition scores cows that need further investigation.