

DIFFERENT LEVELS OF SUGARCANE BAGASSE PELLETS  
IN COMPLETE RATIONS WITH AND WITHOUT BENTONITE OR SUPPLEMENTAL HAY

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The objectives were to study the effect of feeding 20, 25, and 30 percent of pelleted sugarcane bagasse in complete rations with and without 3.7% of sodium bentonite or 3 pounds of supplemental hay daily upon feed intake fat test milk production and animal health. The experimental design employed is shown below.

<u>Periods</u>	<u>Ration</u>								
Standardization(14d)	<u>36 cows on complete ration with 25 percent bagasse and 3 lbs. hay/day</u>								
Experimental	<u>12 cows, 20% bagasse</u>			<u>12 cows, 25% bagasse</u>			<u>12 cows, 30% bagasse</u>		
	<u>4 cows</u>	<u>4 cows</u>	<u>4 cows</u>	<u>4 cows</u>	<u>4 cows</u>	<u>4 cows</u>	<u>4 cows</u>	<u>4 cows</u>	<u>4 cows</u>
Period 1 (35d)	Bent.	Hay	Control	Bent.	Hay	Control	Bent.	Hay	Control
Period 2 (35d)	Hay	Control	Bent.	Hay	Control	Bent.	Hay	Control	Bent.
Period 3 (35d)	Control	Bent.	Hay	Control	Bent.	Hay	Control	Bent.	Hay

Complete rations containing 20, 25 or 30 percent sugarcane bagasse pellets were fed to groups of 12 cows each continuously throughout the 105-day experiment. During three successive sub-periods (35 days each) of the experiment either sodium bentonite, supplemental hay or no supplement (control) was incorporated into the basal bagasse ration (20, 25 or 30%) of each cow.

The results will be reported in the Newsletter and other media after all cows have completed the experiment.