

Field Peas in Creep Feeds for Beef Calves

Vern Anderson

Field peas are a high protein, high energy feedstuff which may be most economically used in nutrient dense diets such as creep feed. Fifty-two beef cow-calf pairs were allotted to four treatments with two replicates per treatment in a drylot setting for the 56 day study. The treatments were reciprocal amounts of dry rolled field peas and wheat midds at 0, 33, 67, and 100%. Feed consumption increased with the proportion of field peas in the diet averaging 6.05, 7.12, 8.27, and 10.73 pounds daily for 0, 33, 67, and 100% field peas respectively. Gain also increased but not in proportion to intake with respective daily gains of 2.83, 3.15, 3.12, and 3.37. Gain per unit feed was calculated at 0.47, 0.44, 0.30, and 0.38, indicating reduced efficiency with increasing feed intake. Peas are a highly palatable feedstuff that increase intake of creep feeds and calf gains.