

A Comparison of Soybean, Canola, Solvent and Expeller Crambe Meal as Protein Sources for Growing and Finishing Feedlot Steers

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Feedlot performance and carcass traits were compared in a 150-day growing and finishing trial using preconditioned crossbred steer calves ($n=128$, avg wt = 795 ± 12.2 lbs). Diets were formulated for equal crude protein using soybean meal, canola meal, solvent and expeller crambe meal. Dry matter intake was greater ($P<.10$) during growing for soybean (22.15 lb/hd/day) and canola meal (22.61) compared to expeller crambe meal (20.57). Solvent crambe meal (21.42) was intermediate. For the entire feeding period, no intake differences ($P>.10$) were apparent. During growing, gains from solvent crambe meal (3.58 lb/hd/day) were less ($P<.10$) than canola meal (4.19) with soybean meal (4.05) and expeller crambe meal (3.67) intermediate. No differences ($P>.10$) in gain were observed when the entire feeding period was compared. Gains per unit of feed were similar ($P>.10$) throughout both periods and overall. Carcass traits were similar ($P>.10$), except dressing percent was lower ($P<.10$) for solvent crambe meal (61.4%) compared to canola meal (63.0) with soybean meal (62.9) and expeller crambe meal (62.2) intermediate. Percent choice and carcass value numerically favored expeller crambe meal. Expeller crambe meal produced equal or greater animal performance and carcass value when compared to solvent crambe meal, soybean meal, and canola meal as a protein source for feedlot cattle during growing and finishing. •