ENERGY METABOLISM OF FARM ANIMALS

EDITED BY
K. McCracken
E.F. Unsworth
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Energy Metabolism of Farm Animals

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K.J. McCracken, E.F. Unsworth and A.R.G. Wylie

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and The Queen's University of Belfast, Belfast, UK
## CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Preface</th>
<th>xi</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acknowledgements</td>
<td>xiii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tributes to deceased colleagues</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maria Kotarbinska</td>
<td>xv</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carlos Prieto</td>
<td>xvi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invited Lecture</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opportunities for application of studies on leptin in animal production</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Romsos, D.R.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Session 1: Organ and Tissue Metabolism</strong></td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The effect of dietary asynchrony on circadian changes in net nutrient fluxes across the portal-drained viscera in calves</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kim E.J., Dhana M.S., Gooden J.M., Dawson J.M., Buttery P.J. &amp; Scollan N.D.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oxygen consumption by hindquarters in cold-exposed new-born pigs</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lossec G., Lebreton Y., Hulin J.C., Fillault M. &amp; Herpin P.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dietary protein is the major source of energy for the portal-drained viscera of fed piglets</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stoll B., Burrin D.G., Jahoor F., Henry J., Yu H. &amp; Reeds P.J.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy expenditure and mitochondrial proton leak in lean and obese strains of rats</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of energy density and metabolizable energy intake on visceral organ growth in sheep</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McLeod K.R. &amp; Baldwin R.L. VI</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Changes in gut and liver glucose release and oxygen consumption during gestation and lactation in the ewe</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freetly H.C. &amp; Ferrell C.L.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Effects of abomasal wheat starch infusion on splanchnic metabolism and energy balance of lactating dairy cows</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reynolds C.K., Humphries D.J., Cammell S.B., Benson J., Sutton J.D. &amp; Beever D.E.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fatty acid oxidation in skeletal muscle mitochondria from newborn pigs</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schmidt I., Fillault M., Hulin, J.-C. &amp; Herpin P.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brown adipose tissue thermogenesis and ontogeny in Bos indicus and Bos taurus cattle</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carstens G.E., McPhail, E.H., Kahl S. &amp; Smith S.B.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Effects of dietary fats (medium-chain vs. long-chain fatty acids) on the oxidative capacity of tissues in the preruminant calf</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Piot C., Veerkamp J.H., Durand D., Bauchart D. &amp; Hocquettte J.F.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of energy density and metabolizable energy intake on substrate metabolism by ruminal epithelial cells isolated from sheep</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baldwin R.L. VI &amp; McLeod K.R.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Session 8: Feed Evaluation and Dietary Aspects

Ileally digestible pea starch results in a lower energy gain in growing pigs compared to ileally digestible maize starch
Bakker G.C.M., Dekker R.A., Everts H., van der Meulen J. & Smits B.

Estimation of maintenance energy requirements and efficiency of utilization of metabolizable energy for growth in lambs by indirect calorimetry and comparative slaughter

Predicting net energy of feedstuffs for beef cattle
Larson E.M. & Johnson D.E.

The effect of stage of harvest of maize silage on the concentration and efficiency of utilization of metabolizable energy by lactating dairy cows
Beever D.E., Cammell S.B., Sutton, J.D. & Humphries D.J.

Partition of energy digestion in pigs fed barley-based diets with forage meal inclusion
Lindberg J.E. & Andersson C.

Energy utilization of diets with different sources of dietary fibre in growing pigs
Jørgensen H.

The effective energy of six poultry diets measured in young and adult birds
Farrell D.J., Smulders A., Mannion P.F., Smith M. & Priest J.

The effect of grass silage:concentrate ratio in the diet of beef cattle and lambs on the efficiency of utilization of metabolizable energy for growth

Methane suppression by calcium soaps of stearic, oleic and linoleic acid mixtures in cattle
Nishida T., Kuribara M., Purnomoadi A., Terada F. & Shibata M.

Extrapolating from ME to NE: unintended consequences
Johnson D.E., Larson E.M. & Jarosz M.J.

Treatment of urea-treated whole crop wheat to improve its energy value for lactating dairy cows
Sutton J.D., Cammell S.B., Beever D.E., Humphries D.J. & Phipps R.H.

The influence of dietary carbohydrate and protein levels on energy and nitrogen utilization of Atlantic salmon in seawater
Helland S.J. & Grisdale-Helland B.

Summary of the discussion

List of participants

Index of laboratories studying energy metabolism in farm animals (September 1997)

Author index

Subject index
METHANE SUPPRESSION BY CALCIUM SOAPS OF STEARIC, OLEIC AND LINOLEIC ACID MIXTURES IN CATTLE

T. Nishida¹, M. Kurihara¹, A. Purnomoadi², F. Terada¹ and M. Shibata³

¹National Institute of Animal Industry, Tsukuba Norindanchi P.O. Box 5, Ibaraki, 305 Japan; ²Diponegoro University, Semarang, 50241 Indonesia; ³Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Research Council Secretariat, Chiyoda-ku Kasumigaseki 1-2-1, Tokyo, 100 Japan

Summary

Two types of calcium soaps of fatty acids (Ca-FA) were used; Ca-FA-1 (C18:0 17.0%, C18:1 65.0%) and Ca-FA-2 (C18:0 20.0%, C18:1 40.0%, C18:2 35.0%). In Expt 1 four dry cows were fed Italian ryegrass hay and concentrate as basal diet (BD). Treatments were BD, BD + Ca-FA-1 (300g), BD + Ca-FA-1 (600g) or BD + Ca-FA-2 (600g). In Expt 2 four lactating cows were fed bahiagrass hay and concentrates with or without the Ca-FA-2 supplements (500g). In Expt 1 there were no significant differences in NDF digestibility by feeding Ca-FA. Methane production per dry matter intake (DMI) in dry cows tended to decrease about 7-9% (17-23 litres/day) by feeding Ca-FA but no effects of degree of saturation and amount of Ca-FA fed were observed. In Expt 2 DMI and digestibilities of dry matter (DM) and crude protein (CP) were not affected by feeding Ca-FA. Methane suppression in lactating cows was about 4% (22 litres/day/kg DMI).

From the above results, it is concluded that feeding 300-600 g/day of Ca-FA is effective in suppressing methane production without reduction of productivity.

Key words: Methane production, calcium soaps, cows, digestibility.

Introduction

It is important now to reduce methane production from ruminants because it is recognized to be one of the major greenhouse gases. Methane excretion by ruminant animals is about 8% of total energy intake of the animal (Blaxter, 1967). The methanogenic bacteria produce methane in the rumen mainly from hydrogen and carbon dioxide. Hydrogenation of the double bonds of unsaturated fatty acids might share hydrogen with the methanogenesis process in the rumen (Blaxter & Czerkawski, 1966). Therefore, the addition of unsaturated fatty acids to the diet may result in an inhibition of methane production.

Increasing energy density by feeding supplemental Ca-FA can increase production, especially in high producing lactating cows (Schneider et al., 1988, Sklan et al., 1989, Andrew et al., 1991). Preformed calcium soaps are easily mixed with rations and do not affect normal rumen fermentation (Jenkins & Palmquist, 1984) and digestibilities of most nutrients (Schaufl & Clark, 1992). For that reason it is practical for use by farmers to suppress methane production from ruminants without reducing production performance.

The objectives of the experiments were to evaluate the effect of unsaturated Ca-FA supplementation on the methane production and digestion of nutrients in cattle.

Materials and Methods

Two experiments were conducted using 4 dry cows (Expt 1, average live weight 643kg) in one way classification and 8 lactating cows (Expt 2, average live weight 626kg) in one way classification with blocks (protein source). Two types of Ca-FA were used; Ca-FA-1 (C18:0 17.0%, C18:1 65.0%; Fine feed I, Miyoshi Oils and Fat Co., Ltd.) and Ca-FA-2 (C18:0 20.0%, C18:1 40.0%, C18:2 35.0%; Fine feed B). The chemical composition of the
hay, concentrate and Ca-FA used in the trial are shown in Table 1. In Expt 1 dry cows were fed a diet of 60% Italian ryegrass hay and 40% concentrate on DM basis to meet metabolizable energy (ME) requirement (AFFRC, 1994) as basal diet (BD). Treatments were BD (control), BD + Ca-FA-1 (300g, C18:1L), BD + Ca-FA-1 (600g, C18:1H) or BD + Ca-FA-2 (600g, C18:2H) with 14 days feeding period. Faeces and urine were collected for the last 4 days, and each cow spent 2 days of each collection period in open-circuit respiration chambers for the measurement of respiratory exchange (Iwasaki et al., 1982). In Expt 2 lactating cows were fed bahiagrass hay ad libitum and concentrates with or without the Ca-FA-2 supplement (500g, C18:2) to meet 80% of ME requirement (AFFRC, 1994) for 14 days. Faeces and urine collections were done for the last 7 days, and studies of energy balance were conducted during the last 5 days of the collection period using open circuit respiration chambers (Mukai et al., 1989).

All data were analyzed by the GLM procedure (SAS, 1988) and treatment means were tested with Tukey’s multiple range test if F tests were significant (P<0.05).

Table 1. Chemical composition of hay, concentrate and calcium soaps of fatty acids (Ca-FA) (g/kg or MJ/kg DM).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>DM</th>
<th>CP</th>
<th>EE</th>
<th>NDF</th>
<th>GE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Expt 1 (dry cows)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italian ryegrass hay</td>
<td>884</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>620</td>
<td>17.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concentrate 1</td>
<td>902</td>
<td>173</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>188</td>
<td>18.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ca-FA-1</td>
<td>971</td>
<td>870</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>33.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ca-FA-2</td>
<td>970</td>
<td>880</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>34.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expt 2 (lactating cows)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bahiagrass hay</td>
<td>888</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>709</td>
<td>17.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concentrate (CaFA2+1)</td>
<td>888</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>171</td>
<td>16.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concentrate (CaFA2-2)</td>
<td>886</td>
<td>178</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>193</td>
<td>16.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


1) Ingredients (ADM%): corn 30%, barley 25%, wheat bran 9%, defatted rice bran 7%, soybean meal 12%, molasses 3.7%, alfalfa meal 7%, beet pulp 5%, CaCO$_3$ 1.3%.

2) Ingredients (ADM%): corn 41.9%, barley bran 2.2%, soybean meal 18.2-6.8%, fish meal 0.6-8.8%, alfalfa meal 10.6%, soybean hull 7.1%, beet pulp 7.3-13.7%, molasses 7.1%, calcium soaps of fatty acids 3.5%, Ca$_3$(PO$_4$)$_2$ 0.9%, mineral suppl. 0.7%.

3) Ingredients (ADM%): corn 50.3%, barley bran 2.7%, soybean meal 17.5-7.1%, fish meal 0-7.1%, alfalfa meal 7.1%, soybean hull 7.1%, beet pulp 14.0-17.7%, Ca$_3$(PO$_4$)$_2$ 0.5%, CaCO$_3$ 0.5%, mineral suppl. 0.7%.

Results and Discussion

The least square means of BW, milk yield, milk fat, digestibility, methane production, nitrogen balance and energy balance with dry and lactating cows are shown in Table 2. Milk fat concentration was lower in the Ca-FA period, but milk fat yield was more (1.01 kg/day) than the control (0.99kg/day) because of increased milk production. There were no significant differences in DM, CP and NDF digestibilities by feeding Ca-FA with dry cows or in DM and CP digestibility with lactating cows. These results were similar to previous experiments (Klusmeyer et al., 1991; Schauff & Clark, 1992). DMI was not affected by feeding Ca-FA. Methane production tended to decrease when Ca-FA was fed to dry cows, but was increased by feeding Ca-FA (552.9 litres/day) compared to the control diet (540.4 litres/day) in lactating cows. Methane production per DMI in dry cows was tended to decrease about 6.7-8.7% (17-23 litres/day) by feeding Ca-FA but no effect of the degree of saturation nor amount of Ca-FA was observed. Methane production per kg DMI in
lactating cows was reduced by feeding Ca-FA-2 (30.0 litres/kg) compared to the control (31.2 litres/kg), and methane suppression per DMI was about 3.8% (22.4 litres/day).

Table 2. Least square means of live weight (LW), milk yield, milk fat, digestibility, methane production, nitrogen balance and energy balance in dry and lactating cows.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treatment</th>
<th>Control</th>
<th>C18:1L</th>
<th>C18:1H</th>
<th>C18:2H</th>
<th>SE</th>
<th>Control</th>
<th>C18:2</th>
<th>SE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of cows</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LW (kg)</td>
<td>677</td>
<td>650</td>
<td>651</td>
<td>668</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>597</td>
<td>653</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DMI (kg/day)</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>6.5&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>17.4</td>
<td>18.4</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ca-FA intake (kg/day)</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Milk yield (kg/day)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>25.6</td>
<td>27.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milk fat (%)</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digestibility (%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dry matter</td>
<td>71.2</td>
<td>71.4</td>
<td>69.7</td>
<td>70.3</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>68.1</td>
<td>68.0</td>
<td>0.6</td>
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<td>Crude protein</td>
<td>62.4</td>
<td>62.5</td>
<td>62.4</td>
<td>62.6</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>57.7</td>
<td>59.5</td>
<td>0.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>NDF&lt;sup&gt;1&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>66.9</td>
<td>66.9</td>
<td>66.4</td>
<td>66.9</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>62.4</td>
<td>62.8</td>
<td>0.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>CH₄ (l/day)</td>
<td>263</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>245</td>
<td>243</td>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>540</td>
<td>553</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CH₄/DMI (l/kg)</td>
<td>40.6</td>
<td>37.1</td>
<td>37.9</td>
<td>37.5</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>31.2</td>
<td>30.0</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of control</td>
<td>(100)&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>(91.3)&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>(93.4)</td>
<td>(92.4)</td>
<td></td>
<td>(100)</td>
<td>(96.2)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CH₄/DDMI (l/kg)</td>
<td>57.0&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>51.8&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>54.3</td>
<td>53.2</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>46.0&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>43.1&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>0.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>N balance (g/day)</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Intake</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>402</td>
<td>436</td>
<td>21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Faeces</td>
<td>50.4</td>
<td>49.8</td>
<td>50.6</td>
<td>51.6</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>9.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urine</td>
<td>72.1</td>
<td>68.5</td>
<td>60.2</td>
<td>66.8</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>54.4</td>
<td>82.1</td>
<td>8.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milk</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>129</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>4.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Retention</td>
<td>11.3</td>
<td>15.4</td>
<td>22.9</td>
<td>15.3</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>50.3</td>
<td>45.4</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Energy balance (kJ/kg&lt;sup&gt;0.75&lt;/sup&gt;)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>ME intake</td>
<td>538&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>565&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>667&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>665&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>1580</td>
<td>1654</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milk</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>660</td>
<td>615</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heat production</td>
<td>488&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>512&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>546&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>529&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>862</td>
<td>913</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retention</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<sup>a, b</sup>: Means in the same row within dry cows or lactating cows with different superscripts differ (P<0.05) by Tukey's multiple range test.

<sup>A, B</sup>: Means in the same row within dry cows or lactating cows with different superscripts differ (P<0.01) by Tukey's multiple range test.

<sup>1</sup> NDF: Neutral detergent fibre.

Nitrogen balance was not affected by Ca-FA feeding in Expt 1 but urinary nitrogen excretion tended to increase with addition of Ca-FA in Expt 2. Metabolizable energy intake and heat production were significantly increased with dry cows and retention energy tended to increase when 500-600 g of Ca-FA were fed with dry and lactating cows. From the results of these experiments we calculated the decrease of methane production C18:1-L, 1.36, C18:1-H, 0.80, C18:2-H, 0.86 and C18:2-H (lactating cows) 0.89 moles/mole Ca-FA given. Methane production per mole of Ca-FA was not affected by unsaturation of the acid 500-600 g of Ca-FA feeding periods. Blaxter & Czerkawski (1966) observed the effect of stearic, oleic and linoleic acid for methane depression were 3.1, 1.7 and 1.8 moles/mole respectively with sheep, but they reported loss appetite and decrease of DMI and digestibility due to the effects on rumen microorganisms. In our study smaller
effects on methane suppression compared with their experiments were confirmed by feeding Ca-FA with cows but no negative effects of DMI, digestibility, milk production, nitrogen and energy balance were observed. This is probably because Ca soaps protect ruminal microbes from the adverse effects of fat (Chalupa et al., 1986). However, they observed a reduction in methane production per mole of unsaturated fatty acid increased with increasing unsaturation of the acid at a rate of 0.24 ± 0.09 moles/mole double bond. In our experiments Ca-FA-2 contained only 35.0% unsaturated fatty acid (C18:2) so the effects of degree of unsaturation might not be observed clearly.

From the above results, it is concluded that feeding 300-600 g/day of Ca-FA is effective in suppressing methane production without reduction of productivity.

References


