

Original Research Article

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Effect of Supplementing Cation Anion Salt on Feed Intake during Transition Period in Buffaloes

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ABSTRACT

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The effect of feeding prepartum anionic diet and postpartum cationic diet during transition period was studied using twenty pregnant Murrah buffaloes. Commonly available feeds and fodders were analyzed for their Na, K, Cl, and S content to calculate their Dietary Cation Anion Difference value. The buffaloes were divided into two equal groups and were fed with same diet. With that treatment group supplemented -749.16 anion and +1473.56 cation mEq salt in before and after calving respectively. The treatments were started 21 days before expected date of calving. After parturition, treatment groups were supplemented with extra cationic salt up to 21 days. Prepartum feed intake in both the groups was not affected by dietary treatments. There was significant ($P < 0.05$) increase in feed intake in treatment group (12.88 Vs. 11.60 Kg/day) during postpartum period. The DM intake/100 kg body weight was also significant higher ($P < 0.05$) in treatment group (2.65 Vs. 2.37 %/day) at 21 day after calving. Feed intake increased during postpartum period as compared to prepartum in both the groups of cows.

Introduction

The Transition period is period before and after three to four weeks of calving and this period is very critical for in terms of health, production and reproduction point of view. The periparturient disease conditions are

associated with decreased dry matter intake (DMI), and feed intake is a critical determinant of health and productivity in the dry period. Feed intake and nutrient density of the diet determine the availability of nutrients to the cow and rapidly developing foetus. Grant and Albright (1996) reviewed the

feeding behavior and management factors during the transition period for dairy cattle and found that feed intake decreased by up to 30% during the week before calving. Factors that influence feed intake include social dominance, digestibility of the diet, access to feed and the palatability of the feed (Grant and Albright 1996).

Materials and Methods

Location of work

The present study was conducted at Animal Farm of Central Institute for Research on Buffaloes Hisar Haryana. The entire study comprised of two phases. Phase 1 involved formulation of DCAD diets and Phase 2 comprised of feeding experiment and a total number of 20 buffaloes were divided into two groups of ten each on the basis of equal standard previous lactation milk yield.

Phase 1 Formulation of DCAD based diets for Transition Period:

Calculation of DCAD (mEq/ kg DM) diet: The percent of minerals Na, K, Cl, and S are measured by AAS and ionometry IC Plus. In various feeds, cakes, fodders and wheat straw % values of Na, K, Cl and S were determined by chemically and some were taken from ICAR Publication book nutrient composition of Indian feeds and fodder and, website of National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad for calculation of DCAD.

Estimation of Na and K minerals content in Feeds and fodders:

Feed samples were dried in hot air oven at 1000C. Ashing the duplicate feed sample by muffle furnace (temperature 550±50 oC). dissolved ash in 25 ml solution (HCL : D. Water = 50:50), Than boiled the solution for 5 to 10 minute, than Made solution 100 ml with double distilled water after filtering by

Whatman filter paper with warm water, and subjected for double analysis in Atomic Absorption Spectrometer (AAS), Using the instrument ICE 3300 thermo fisher.

Estimation of Cl and S minerals content in Feeds and fodders by Ion Analysis by ionometry (IC Plus):

Sample preparation-Take 1 gram sample, Than dissolve in distilled water (Volume make up 100 ml) after dry ashing, than filter by Whatman filter paper (0.46 µm) and Syringe filter. Minimum sample require is 6 ml.

Note- Sample tube should be dipped in sample with syringe aspirate 2ml sample than press start, than aspirate 3ml sample, time require 30 minute for every sample. Retention time for chloride (8.8 minute) and for sulphate (23.51 minute).

The mEq weight (mg x valency/ atomic weight) of the minerals (Na, K, Cl and S) aswell as the dietary cations anions difference (DCAD) value of feeds and fodders were calculated using formula:

$$\text{DCAD (mEq)} = (\text{Na} + \text{K}) - (\text{Cl} + \text{S})$$

The DCAD values of feeds and fodders used for feeding to the buffaloes during transition periods are presented in Table 2, 3 and 4.

Twenty buffaloes were divided into two groups of ten each on the basis of equal standard previous lactation milk yield. Grouping of buffaloes on the basis of previous standard lactation milk yield is given in table 5. Standard milk yield was statistically (P>0.05) non-significant in both the groups.

Feeding and feed intake recording

Twenty post-partum high yielding buffaloes maintained at Animal farm of ICAR-Central Institute for Research on Buffaloes were

selected for the present study. These buffaloes were selected on the basis of previous lactation milk yield (305 day lactation yield) into two groups of 10 animals in each group (Table 5). One group was kept on farm feeding management (control group) and another group was kept on the supplementation of anion salt (-749.16) with normal feeding 21 days before expected date of calving to up to calving (Table 2) and after calving started supplementing cation salt (+1473.56 me) upto 21 days of calving schedule (treatment group) practice of the farmer (Table 4). During test Feed intake of the individual animal was recorded twice in a week and mean of both days was taken for calculation. Exact weight of feeds offered and residual left was recorded. Representative samples were subjected to dry matter estimation for calculation of dry matter intake.

Sampling of feed, fodder, and residue left

During the experimental period fresh samples of wheat straw, concentrate mixture, sorghum silage and green fodder were collected which offers to the animals. The selected samples were transferred to clean and dry polyethylene bags, brought to the laboratory for dry matter estimation and subsequently for proximate analysis. The residue of feed left weekly by individual animals was also collected and weighed and brought to the laboratory for dry matter estimation. The samples of feed offered and residue left was kept in hot air oven at 100 °C for 24 hours or till a constant weight was obtained.

Dry matter

A representative sample of feed ingredients was weighed in moisture cup and kept overnight in a hot air oven at 100 °C. Dried samples were weighed and DM calculated as follows.

DM (%) =

$$\frac{\text{Weight of the sample after oven drying}}{\text{Fresh weight of the sample}} \times 100$$

Results and Discussion

The results of experiments conducted during transition period buffaloes to study the effect of supplementing 90 gram anion salt (-749.16 mEq) from -21 days up to calving and after calving started supplementing with 125 gram cation salt (Sodium bicarb. +1473.56 mEq) salt up to 21 days of calving on feed intake are presented in this section.

Table 6 shows the daily net mEq intake by the experimental buffaloes in different groups. Net mEq intake was 729.79 and - 35.79 in control and treatment groups respectively. The -vemEq intake in treatment group before calving was because of 90gram anion salt supplementation 21 days before calving to till calving. After calving buffaloes of treatment group were fed with 125 gram daily cation salt (Sodiunbicarb). The net mEq intake in treatment group was +ve higher in treatment group in comparison to control group. This was due to supplementation of treatment group with cation salt.

Effect on dry matter intake

During start of feeding experiment of 21 days before calving DMI kg/day control and treatment were 11.65 kg and 11.32 kg respectively. No significant (P>0.05) difference was observed in DMI intake between the two groups. Similarly no significant (P>0.05) difference was observed between the control and treatment group at 7 days before calving. However DMI decreased as the buffaloes approached near to calving. The possible reason for decreased DMI near calving is all buffaloes irrespective of their group were in stressed. This decreased DMI

near calving further give research opportunity to overcome calving stress.

DMI 7 days before and 7 days after calving was 9.34, 9.86; 9.68 and 10.20 kg/d in control and treatment group respectively. Similarly no significant ($P>0.05$) difference was observed in DMI 7 days after calving between the group. However DMI 7 days after calving became stable and stop to decrease which indicate that calving stress is over in both the groups. DMI start to increase after 7 days of calving and increased in both the groups. After 21 days of calving DMI was significantly higher ($P<0.05$) in treatment group where anion salt were fed before calving and cation

salt were fed after calving. DMI from green fodder was significantly ($P<0.01$) higher in treatment group than the control in cation anion supplemented group.

Dry matter intake per 100kg body weight was similar in both groups from 21days before calving to 7 days after calving but treated buffaloes showed significant increase ($P<0.05$) in dry matter intake per 100 kg body weight at 21 days after calving. Similar result was observed by Senthil Kumar and Kaur (2005) in cows when fed anionic salt before calving. Figure 1 shows the DMI (kg/d) during the transition period from different source as well as total (Table 7 and 8).

Table.1 Method to calculate mEq of a diet

Mineral	Conversion Factor	% in feed dry matter	mEq/kg FeedDM
Sodium	435	0.04	+ 17
Potassium	256	1.74	+ 446
Chlorine	282	0.45	- 126
Sulphur	624	0.23	-144

mEq/kg feed DM = % in feed dry matter × Conversion Factor
 DCAD = [(Na + K) – (Cl + S)]

Table.2 Ingredients composition of Conc. Mix given before calving and its mEq status

S. N.	Ingredients	Parts	Na ⁺¹	K ⁺¹	Cl ⁻¹	S ⁻²	DCAD (mEq)
1	Wheat	13	204.15	1562.42	420.14	1171.37	175.06
2	Barley	13	102.07	161.97	430.11	1172.90	-1338.97
3	Maize	14	54.96	1326.16	285.05	266.28	829.79
4	Mustard cake	35	687.03	7277.76	712.61	3847.91	3404.27
5	WB	22	172.74	4676.25	991.16	3152.1	705.73
6	MM	2	0.00	0.00	0.00	39.43	-39.43
7	Salt	1	17108.55	0.00	17106.12	0.00	2.43
	Total	100	18329.5	15004.56	19945.19	9650.05	3738.88
			DCAD mEq/kg		37.39		
			DCAD (mEq)On DM basis				
			4142.80 mEq on DM basis				
			41.43 mEq/kgDM basis				
			mEq supplementation by 90 gram anion supplementation= -749.16				
			mEq/animal/day by supplementing 90.00 gram of anion salt				

Table.3 mEq in silage, green and wheat straw on fresh as well as DM basis

S.N.	Ingredients	Na ⁺¹	K ⁺¹	Cl ⁻¹	S ⁻²	mEq
1	Silage fresh basis/kg	5.66	69.22	35.37	21.97	17.54
2	Silage/ kg DM basis	21.79	266.50	136.18	84.59	67.52
3	Green fresh basis/kg	4.83	59.16	32.47	19.19	12.33
4	Green /kg DM basis	21.74	266.22	146.12	86.36	55.18
5	WS fresh basis	31.64	353.75	189.93	117.94	77.52
6	WS /kgDM basis	34.8	389.12	208.92	129.73	85.27

Table.4 Ingredients composition of Conc. Mix given after calving and its mEq status

S. No.	Ingredients	Parts	Na ⁺¹	K ⁺¹	Cl ⁻¹	S ⁻²	DCAD (mEq)
1	Wheat	13	204.15	1562.42	420.14	1171.37	175.06
2	Barley	14	102.07	161.97	430.11	1172.90	-1338.97
3	Maize	13	54.96	1326.16	285.05	266.28	829.79
4	Mustard cake	5	98.15	1039.68	101.80	506.84	529.19
5	Cotton seed cake	30	353.33	7624.32	611.00	3693.03	3673.62
6	WB	22	172.74	4676.25	991.16	2849.60	1008.23
7	MM	2	0.00	0.00	0.00	39.43	-39.43
8	Salt	1	17108.55	0.00	17106.12	0.00	2.43
	Total	100					4839.92
			DCAD (mEq/Kg)		48.40		
			DCAD (mEq) on DM basis				
			5362.79 on DM basis				
			53.62/kg DM basis				
			mEq supplementation by 125 gms of cations				
			supplementation=1473.56mEq/animal/day by supplementing 125gm of sodium bicarb				

Table.5 Grouping of buffaloes on the basis of milk yield

S.NO.	No.	305 D milk yield (Control)	No.	305 D milk yield (Treatment)
1	4219	3391	4367	3366
2	4089	3036	4251	3156
3	4218	3006	4197	2854
4	4479	2834	4234	2756
5	3546	2703	4420	2547
6	4448	2575	4602	2261
7	4421	2428	4400	2507
8	4545	2427	4561	2370
9	4445	2261	4285	2316
10	4117	1633	4419	2164
Total		26294		26297
Avg		2629.4± 154.43		2629.7±125.87

Table.6 Net daily mEq intake of buffaloes during the transition period in different group

Days	Feed	Control mEq SE	Treatment mEq ±SE
-21 days of Calving	Total mEq	729.79±36.01	713.37±27.61
	Concentrate	134.98±0.00	134.98±0.00
	Green	345.52±11.13	301.21±29.21
	WS	249.29±29.96	277.18±15.40
	Supple. mEq	0.00	-749.16
	Net mEq	729.79±36.01	- 35.79±27.61
	Body Wt	569.34±12.90	565.37±11.12
-7 day of Calving	Total mEq	571.19±18.07	600.34±19.81
	Concentrate	232.03 ±0.00	232.03±0.00
	Green	277.18±11.91	276.04±12.00
	WS	61.97±7.81	92.26±11.24
	Supple mEq	0.00	-749.16
	Net mEq	571.19±18.07	-148.82±19.81
	Body Wt	576.20±12.86	572.32±11.16
7 day of calving	Total mEq	570.15±8.51	589.07±5.44
	Concentrate	359.78 ±0.00	359.78±0.00
	Green	16954±9.30	187.45±6.01
	WS	40.82±4.24	41.83±4.31
	Supple mEq	0.00	+1473.56
	Net mEq	570.15±8.51	2062.63±5.44
	Body Wt	531.25±14.14	528.79±13.62
21 days of Calving	Total mEq	669.24±7.84	759.77±28.68
	Concentrate	411.18±0.00	411.18±0.00
	Green	213.12±6.34	246.10±5.33
	WS	44.93±5.57	102.49±25.32
	Body Wt	492.11±14.21	487.16±12.53
	Supple mEq	0.00	+1473.56
	Net mEq	669.24±7.84	2233.33±28.68

Table.7 Effect of cation anion feeding on dry matter intake during transition feeding

Days	Feed	Control DMI (Kg)±SE	Treatment DMI (Kg) ±SE
-21 days of Calving	Total DMI	11.65±0.44	11.32±0.40
	Concentrate	3.61±0.00	3.61±0.00
	Green	5.11±0.16	4.46±0.43
	WS	2.92±0.35	3.25±0.18
	Body Wt.	569.34±12.90	565.37±11.12
	mEq/100gmDM	6.26	-0.32
-7 day of Calving	Total DMI	9.34±0.24	9.68±0.26
	Concentrate	4.51 ± 0.00	4.51±0.00
	Green	4.10±0.17	4.09±0.17
	WS	0.72±0.09	1.08±0.13
	Body Wt.	576.20±12.86	572.32±11.16
	mEq/100gmDM	6.11	-1.54
7 days of calving	Total DMI	9.86±0.15	10.20±0.09
	Concentrate	6.32±0.00	6.32±0.00
	Green	3.07±0.16±	3.39±0.10
	WS	0.47±0.05	0.49±0.05
	Body Wt.	531.25±14.14	528.79±13.62
	mEq/100gmDM	5.78	20.22
21 days of Calving	Total DMI [*]	11.60±0.12 ^a	12.88±0.36 ^b
	Concentrate	7.22±0.00	7.22±0.00
	Green ^{**}	3.86±0.11 ^a	4.45±0.09 ^b
	WS [*]	0.52±0.06 ^a	1.20±0.29 ^b
	Body Wt.	492.11±14.21	487.16±12.53
	mEq/100gmDM	5.77	17.34

*Superscript bearing different letters in a row differ significantly (p<0.05)

**Superscript bearing different letters in a row differ significantly (p<0.001)

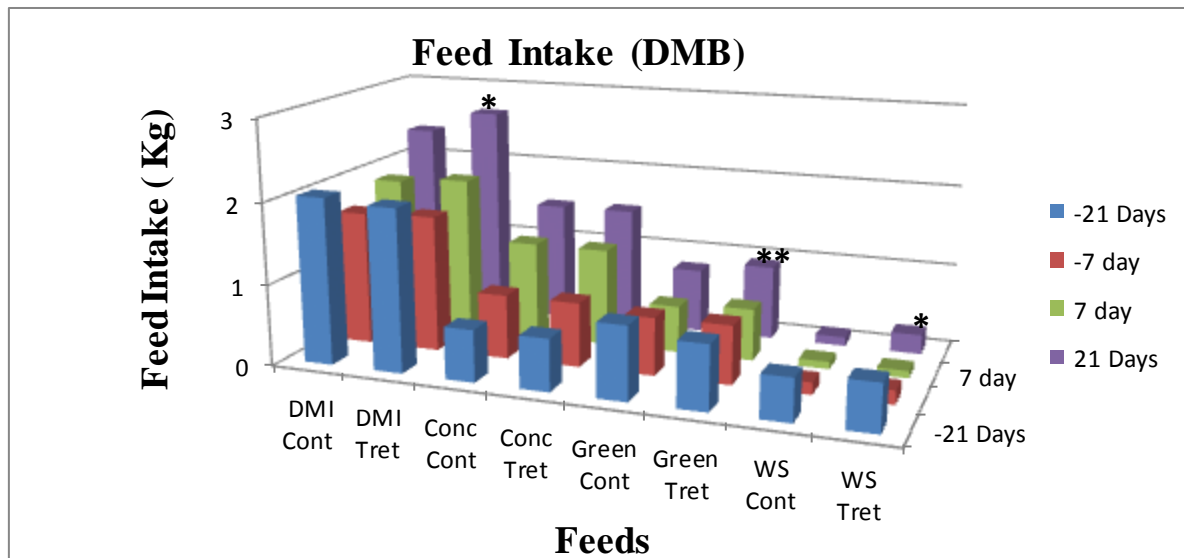
Table.8 DMI/ 100 kg body weight in buffaloes during the transition period

Days	Feed	Control DMI (Kg)±SE	Treatment DMI (Kg) ±SE
-21 days of Calving	Total DMI	2.05±0.084	2.0±0.068
	Concentrate	0.64±0.015	0.64±0.12
	Green	0.90±0.02	0.79±0.07
	WS	0.52 ±0.06	0.58±0.03
-7 day of Calving	Total DMI	1.65±0.04	1.68±0.046
	Concentrate	0.79±0.019	0.79±0.015
	Green	0.71±0.027	0.72±0.03
	WS	0.15±0.014	0.17±0.017
7 days of calving	Total DMI	1.87± 0.044	1.94±0.045
	Concentrate	1.20±0.034	1.20±0.03
	Green	0.58±0.026	0.64±0.019
	WS	0.09±0.01	0.09±0.010
21 days of Calving	Total DMI*	2.37±0.60 ^a	2.65±0.055 ^b
	Concentrate	1.48±0.046	1.49±0.039
	Green**	0.79±0.02 ^a	0.92±0.024 ^b
	WS*	0.11±0.013 ^a	0.24±0.05 ^b

*Superscript bearing different letters in a row differ significantly (p<0.05)

**Superscript bearing different letters in a row differ significantly (p<0.001)

Fig.1 Effect of cation anion feeding on Feed intake (DMB)



(*P< 0.05, **P<0.001)

Tucker *et al.*, (1988) reported that a DCAD [(Na + K) – Cl] of 0, +10, and +20 mEq/100 g of DM increased DMI of lactating dairy cows compared with cows consuming rations with DCAD values of –10 mEq/100 g of DM which is in agreement to our present study in which post calving cation supplementation was given. An optimum DCAD [(Na + K + 0.15 Ca + 0.15 Mg) – (Cl + 0.60S + 0.50P)] range of +15 to +20 mEq/100 g of DM (Roche *et al.*, 2000) has been found that positively affect DMI in dairy cows (Sanchez *et al.*, 1994; Roche *et al.*, 2005). An increase in nutrient intake with positive DCAD diet has also been reported by Jackson *et al.*, (1992) and Shahzad *et al.*, (2007, 2008a). Hu *et al.*, (2007) in a review of 21 experiments, reported peak DMI at DCAD values of 40 mEq/100 g of DM and an overall quadratic increase in DMI of dairy cow diets with increasing DCAD. The increase in DM intake in calves of W2 group fed high DCAD diets might be due to increased rumen pH (Sharif *et al.*, 2009, 2010) that makes the ruminal environment alkaline, which is a pre-requisite for optimum ruminal microbial activity. The effect of DCAD on DMI has a direct effect on the supply of nutrients for maintenance, growth, gestation, and lactation.

The periparturient disease conditions are associated with decreased dry matter intake (DMI), and feed intake is a critical determinant of health and productivity in the dry period. Feed intake and nutrient density of the diet determine the availability of nutrients to the cow and rapidly developing fetus.

Grant and Albright (1996) reviewed the feeding behavior and management factors during the transition period for dairy cattle and found that feed intake decreased by up to 30% during the week before calving. Factors that influence feed intake include social dominance, indigestibility of the diet, access to feed and the palatability of the feed

(Grant and Albright, 1996). Cows are comparatively insensitive to insulin near the calving and have relatively low concentrations of insulin at this time helping maintain a constant blood glucose level despite declining feed intake in the last week or so before calving. This is because utilization of glucose by tissues decreases, while utilization of energy sources derived from lipids by muscle increases, sparing glucose. This signals an increase in the rate of mobilization of body fat stores to support lactation. This has implications for health and fertility as excessive mobilization of tissue increases the risk of diseases such as ketosis, uterine infections and fatty liver. It has been suggested that control of feed intake is mediated in part through oxidation of propionate in the liver, resulting in greater satiety (Allen *et al.*, 2009). Consequently, fats and less fermentable carbohydrates sources may be important to use in early lactation.

Cows and sheep in higher body condition scores have lower dry matter intakes after parturition (Garnsworthy and Topps, 1982) and (Cowan *et al.*, 1980) and lower dry matter intake has been noted immediately after calving (Lean *et al.*, 1994) and before calving (Lean *et al.*, unpublished) for cows with clinical ketosis. Heavily conditioned cattle can have markedly lower dry matter intakes and this is noted especially in cattle with greater than BCS>3.5/5 (greater than six on the one to eight scale). More obese animals are at higher risk of milk fever (Stockdale, 2007).

The effect of greater dry matter intake was shown by the force feeding through a ruminal fistula of periparturient cows (Bertics *et al.*, 1992). Cows that taken more feed had less hepatic lipid accumulation and more milk production after calving. The higher milk production resulted from greater post-calving feed intake and a highly significant positive

correlation between pre- and post-calving feed intake was identified (Bertics *et al.*, 1992).

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