

# THE EFFECT OF FEEDING FRESH FORAGE AND 3 ROUGHAGE-MIXED RATIONS ON DAIRY COW PERFORMANCES IN EARLY LACTATION DURING RAINY SEASON.

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## Abstract

An experiment was conducted during the rainy season to compare 1 fresh forage and 3 Roughage-Mixed Rations using 32 Holstein Friesian Cross Dairy Cows in early of their first or second lactation (8 cows in each treatment). All cows were fed 7 kg concentrate twice daily after each milking. Fresh forage or roughage-mixed which were carefully formulated to be equal in energy and crude protein contents were also fed twice daily according to treatments. Measurements were made of milk yield and milk composition. Feed intake and liveweight were also recorded. Cows receiving fresh forage produced significantly higher 4% fat corrected milk and fat yield ( $p < 0.05$ ). For other performances, there were no statistically significant differences between treatments. The cows on fresh forage rations also gave higher marginal returns than other cows. It is concluded that when fresh forages are in short supply the roughage-mixed can be used as good as fresh forage.

**Keywords:** roughage-mixed, bagasse, metabolisable energy, rumen degradable protein.

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