3 IN 1 FEEDERS

Steer supplement trial

An on-farm trial found that a group of rising two-year-old steers given access to 1kg of barley, formulated to balance their overall diet, had much higher growth rates and ate significantly less forage crop, compared to the control group which did not have access to the grain.

Barley sup. lifts weights, lowers intake

Trial operators, Matt and Lynley Wyeth

Trial outline

Duration:	**60 days**
Quantity:	**60 in each group**
Equipment:	**2x 3IN1FEEDER 1800**
Type:	**Rising 2 y.o. steers**
Feed:	
Control group:	**fodder rape and hay**
Supplement group:	**fodder rape, hay and barley**

Results:

Over the 60 day trial, the supplement group grew an average of 1.5kg/day, 0.5kg/day more than the control group. The per-head cost of the 1kg/day of barley was 0.14€/day and the additional carcase weight gain was worth €1.10/day.

Another big surprise was the amount of crop saved. The control group was consuming 9kg/day of forage while the supplement group only consumed 6kg/day– simply because they were using the feed more efficiently.

Comments from the trial operator

Matt explains their cattle policy. "Our aim is to breed young stock that will average 1kg/day through their life. With EID, we can follow that accurately and look at overall growth – not just the last couple of weighings."

The rising two-year-old steers are finished to 300kg carcass weight through winter for sale into the local trade market over June, July and August. Cull heifers are grown out to 250kg carcass weight

However, a lull in autumn growth last year meant hitting the contracted weights was going to take something extra," he said.

"I thought 'how can I make growth up?' I knew I needed to optimise the feed we had, which was rape and hay.

The biggest surprise was the amount of crop saved," he said.

Matt expected to see an impact on the percentage of Y and P carcass' at processing time, but that wasn't the case.

"The gain was purely through a lift in weight," he said.

3 IN 1 FEEDERS

Weaner supplement trial

2 x 1800 feeders PAID OFF in just 42 days

Run more steers, increase profit

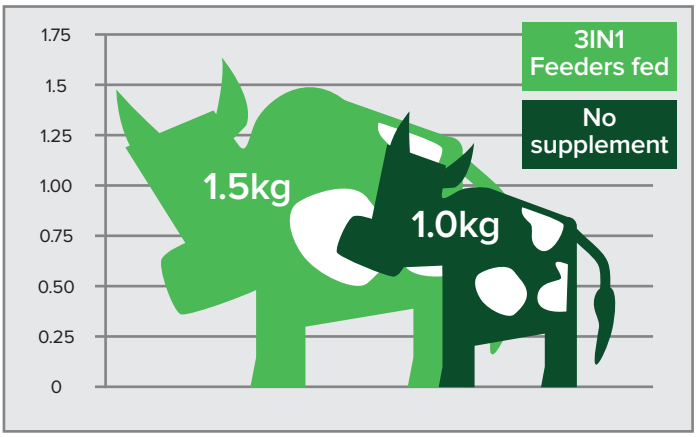
Decreasing forage consumption from 9kg to 6kg per day means that 90 steers with a cereal supplement are able to graze instead of 60.

With an added profit of €73.63/head, the total profit for 90 steers increased €6,626.70 on the area of land that historically ran 60 steers with no cereal supplement

About the trial operators

Matt and Lynley Wyeth have a 2400 acre property, Spring Valley, outside Masterton, NZ, that supports 600 Angus cattle and 10,000 high performance sheep.

Daily weight gain (kg/day) combined growth rates



Added profit versus expenses/head

Trial period (days)	60
Added weight gain (kg)	30
Value of weight gain/kg	€2.20
ADDED INCOME/HEAD	**€66.00**
Value of Winter Forage (€/kgDM)	€0.14
Reduction in Winter Forage consumption (kg/day)	3
Saving in Winter Forage consumption/day	€0.42
REDUCED EXPENSES/HEAD	**€25.20**
Barley cost (kg)	€0.14
Barley consumption (kg/head/day)	1.0
Barley cost/head	€8.40
Depreciation/head*	€8.50
Feeder filling expense/head**	€0.67
ADDED EXPENSES/HEAD	**€17.57**
NET ADDED EXPENSES/HEAD	**-€7.63**
ADDED PROFIT/HEAD	**€73.63**

* This assumes the depreciation rate is 15%, the investment of two feeders is €3,400, the feeder is only used in this function each year divided by 60 steers fed from 2 feeders

** This is calculated by multiplying filling the feeders twice, by one hour each fill, with labour at €20/hour divided by 60 steers fed from the feeders.