



Research on Bunk Management (Part 2 of the Bunk Management Series)

Much research has been done on how bunk management can impact gain and feed conversions in feedlot cattle – we will highlight three of those trials here.

Galyean, et al. (NMSU, 1992) studied the effects of purposely fluctuating daily feed deliveries.

The control cattle were fed a steady amount of feed which was assumed to be 100% of normal intake, while the test cattle were fed this amount plus or minus 10% (so 110%, 90%, 110%, 90% etc.)

The cattle with daily feed delivery fluctuations had gain and feed efficiency reduced by 7%.

Days	Control (%)	Test (%)
1	100	110
4	100	90
7	100	110
10	100	90
13	100	110
16	100	90
19	100	110
22	100	90
25	100	110
28	100	90

Dr. Robbi Pritchard of SDSU brought in a large group of calves for research, but did not have room for all of them at the Brookings research yard, so some of them were fed at a commercial feedyard for 55 days before bringing them to Brookings.

This gave them an opportunity to compare two different bunk management approaches on a similar group of calves. Lot A was at Brookings and Lot B was at the commercial feedyard. As you can see, the deliveries to Lot A were much smoother than in Lot B. Below are the performance differences between the two Lots.

	Dry Matter Intake	Avg. Daily Gain	D.M. Feed/Gain
Lot A	20.24	3.78	5.35
Lot B	19.73	2.07	9.53



Bierman & Pritchard (SDSU, 1996) did a study on feed deliveries and found that when bunks were managed to be slick 70% of the time when the bunks were scored, feed efficiency was improved when compared to bunks that were slick 40% of the time when the bunks were scored.

Cumulative Performance (121 days)	Tighter Bunk Management	Looser Bunk Management
Finish Weight, lbs	1328	1331
Avg. Daily Gain, lbs	3.84	3.85
Dry Matter Intake, lbs	23.57	26.39
D.M. Feed/Gain	6.15	6.90
% of time bunks were slick at 7 am	69.3%	39.7%

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