

EFFECTS OF DIFFERENT CALF FEEDING METHODS ON CALF DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH, GROWTH, BLOOD, AND RUMEN PARAMETERS



KEY WORDS

- ✓ Holstein calf
- ✓ preweaning nutrition
- ✓ starter feed
- ✓ forage
- ✓ rumen fermentation

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THESIS ABSTRACT

This study investigated the effects of different calf-feeding strategies on growth, rumen development, and selected blood and rumen parameters in preweaned Holstein calves. The effects of forage source and method of forage provision, starter starch concentration, and dietary protein source were evaluated in three independent experiments. The findings showed that alfalfa supplementation supported growth and rumen development, whereas the different starch concentrations and protein sources generally produced comparable outcomes.

APPLICATION AREAS OF THE THESIS RESULTS

The findings of this study may contribute to the formulation of starter feeds and the planning of feeding programs for preweaned calves. Furthermore, the results may serve as a reference for forage management practices and the selection of starch and protein sources in calf nutrition.

ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

Başaran, H. C., & Türkmen, İ. İ. (2026). Effects of forage source and method of offering on growth performance, feed intake, and selected metabolic parameters in preweaned calves. In 9th International Food, Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences Congress Abstract Book (pp. 299–300).

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