EVALUATION OF UREA MOLLASES MULTI-NUTRIENT BLOCKS ENRICHED WITH AREA SPECIFIC MINERAL MIXTURE IN CROSSBRED CATTLE

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To assess the effects of supplementary feeding of urea-molasses multi-nutrient block (UMMB) enriched with area specific mineral mixture on productive and reproductive traits of crossbred cattle, a study was undertaken in the subtropical zone of Jammu region. A total of 20 crossbred cattle were selected and allowed to lick a UMMB @ 400-600 gms daily for 30 days. Blood samples were analyzed for hematobiochemical parameters, macro and trace elements and hormonal status (T₃, T₄ & progesterone) at the beginning and after completion of trial. A significant (P < 0.05) increase in the total plasma protein, albumin and globulin level was observed with non-significant (P > 0.05) increase in the PCV, glucose, calcium, phosphorous, magnesium, copper, iron, plasma inorganic iodine (PII) and manganese. Observations on all closely monitored crossbred cattle revealed an average increase of 18.18% in fodder intake, 12.76% in milk yield and 6.31% in milk fat following UMMB supplementation. Moreover, all anoestrous animals came in heat during the study period. It was concluded that UMMB being a good source of energy, protein and minerals enhanced milk yield, milk fat, dry matter intake, general health status and reproductive performance of crossbred cattle.

Keywords: Urea mollases multi-nutrient blocks, Mineral, Hemato-biochemical, Hormones, Crossbred cattle, Milk yield, Production, Reproduction