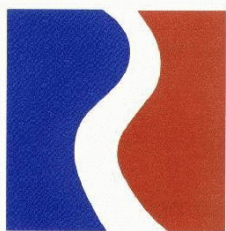


USE OF LOW-MOISTURE BLOCK AND LOOSE DRY MINERAL SUPPLEMENTS BY COWS GRAZING RANGELAND AND BY COWS FED HAY. *D. W. Bailey*, Montana State University, Havre, MT 59501.

Low-moisture blocks can be used to provide supplemental protein and minerals to cattle. Some formulations designed for delivering protein have lower concentrations of minerals, and an additional mineral supplement may be recommended. The objective of this study was to compare low moisture blocks containing higher concentrations of minerals (LMB-M) to conventional dry mixes (CDM) for providing supplemental minerals to cows fed 27% CP low-moisture blocks (LMB-P) as a supplemental protein source. The comparison was conducted with cows grazing foothill rangeland and with cows fed hay. Within a 2-week period (n = 6), LMB-M was available for a week and a CDM was available for the other week. Salt and LMB-P were always available. Global positioning system collars were used to track 7 to 12 cows (n = 50) during each period and to record their visits to supplements (coordinate within 10 m). Use of LMB-P and salt was similar ($P > 0.1$) when cows were grazing and when they were fed hay. Cows visited mineral supplements less often ($P < 0.05$) when grazing. Cows consumed less LMB-P and spent less time near LMB-P when LMB-M was available than when CDM was available. Cows spent more time near LMB-M and visited LMB-M more often than they did CDM ($P < 0.05$). Most cows (96%) visited LMB-P at least once. More cows visited LMB-M (88%) than did CDM (60%, $P < 0.05$). When LMB-P is provided, LMB-M is equivalent, and perhaps superior, to CDM for supplementing additional minerals to grazing cows and cows fed hay.

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