

## Animal Science Research Centre - Beef Unit Trial Results - 1993

### Evaluation of moist crimped barley for intensively fed beef cattle

**Object:** Moist crimped barley is harvested by combining at moisture contents of 35-40%. The grain is crimped (flattened) using a specialist machine and treated with a mixture of organic acids and ensiled in an airtight silo. The object of this trial was to evaluate the performance of Friesian bulls reared on a cereal beef system based on either crimped or rolled barley.

**Stock:** 2 groups of September 1993 born Friesian bulls sourced from the Harper Adams dairy herd.

**Rations:** Crimped or rolled barley fed *ad-libitum* with 0.75 kg/head/day of a 35% protein mineralised concentrate 'top dressed' over the barley.

Barley analysis	Rolled	Crimped
Dry Matter (%)	86	62
ME (MJ/kg DM)	13.5	13.1
Crude Protein (% in DM)	11.7	11.0

#### Results:

Animal Performance	Rolled	Crimped
Start wt (kg)	125	121
Slaughter wt (kg)	506	502
Days to slaughter	265	266
DLWG (kg)	1.44	1.44
Carcase wt (kg)	270	267
Killing out %	53.3	53.3
Carcase grade	O+/R3	O+/R3
Feed use (t/bull)	1.94	2.76
FCR (kg feed: kg LWG)	5.1	7.25
FCR (kg DM: kg LWG)	4.4	4.5

#### Conclusions:

- There was no difference in performance of the bulls fed either rolled or crimped barley.
- Good carcass conformation grades were recorded by both groups of Friesians. It must be noted that there was minimal Holstein breeding within the bulls.
- The decision to feed either rolled or crimped barley should be based on the management advantages and disadvantages of the feeds.