

Effects of Precision Feeding the Condensed Tannin *Quebracho* to Feedlot Cattle on Enteric Methane Production, Animal Performance and Carcass Characteristics

Sharissa K. Anderson*‡, Sebastian E. Mejia Turcios*‡, Madison S. Kindberg*‡, Alejandro R. Castillo†, Briana D. Morales*‡, and Frank M. Mitloehner*‡

*Department of Animal Science, University of California, Davis, Davis, CA 95616.

‡Clarity and Leadership for Environmental Awareness and Research Center, University of California, Davis, Davis, CA 95616.

†UC Cooperative Extension, Merced, CA 95340.

Enteric methane (**CH₄**) is the primary greenhouse gas (**GHG**) emitted from livestock. This study aimed to evaluate the effects of precision feeding a *Quebracho* condensed tannin on enteric CH₄ production when fed to cattle consuming a high concentrate diet. Forty-eight black Angus and black Angus x Herford heifers (body weight (**BW**) = 592 kg ± 11.0) were used in a randomized complete block design (n=24) and blocked based on individual, co-variate enteric CH₄ (111.0 g ± 7.2) emissions collected on d -18 to -15. The two treatments that were used in this study were as follows: Control (**CON**; 48.87 g of ground corn/hd/d + 1.13 g Melengestrol Acetate (**MGA**; g/hd/d; Zoetis, Parsippany, NJ)) and *Quebracho* condensed tannin (**TAN**; 0.15% TAN/kg DM + 48.87 g of ground corn/hd/d + 1.13 g MGA). Heifers were precision fed based on 2.2% BW and % DM of the total mixed ration (**TMR**) being fed. Individual dry matter intake (**DMI**) and water intake (**WI**) were monitored using the Roughage Intake Control System (**RIC System**; Hokofarm Group, Marknesse, The Netherlands). Enteric CH₄, carbon dioxide (**CO₂**), and hydrogen (**H₂**) gas emissions were collected using the Green Feed (**GF**; C-Lock, Inc, Rapid City, SD). Enteric emissions were collected on days (**d**) 10-13, 24-27, 38-41, 52-55, and on d 66-69.

Sixteen, 3-hour sampling windows were staged across a 90-hour sample period to collect a total of eight emission readings/animal/sampling period to determine the average 24-hour emission production from each individual heifer. Heifers were harvested on d 76, and individual carcass data was collected on d 77. Methane, CO₂, and H₂ production did not differ between TAN vs. CON heifers ($P > 0.05$). Methane and H₂ yield were similar between TAN and CON fed heifers ($P > 0.05$). Carbon dioxide yield had a tendency ($P = 0.075$) to be reduced from heifers fed TAN vs. CON by 7.47% from d 38 to 41 (Table 15). *Quebracho* condensed tannin did not have an effect on enteric CH₄, CO₂, and H₂ intensity in TAN fed heifers vs. CON fed heifers ($P > 0.05$). Body weight and average daily gain (**ADG**) were similar between heifers fed TAN vs. CON ($P > 0.05$). There were no differences between heifers fed TAN and heifers fed CON for gain to feed ratio (**G:F**), DMI and WI ($P > 0.05$). Hot carcass weight (**HCW**), marbling score, preliminary yield grade (**PYG**), ribeye area (**REA**), and dressing % (**DP**) were similar between TAN and CON heifers ($P > 0.05$). All carcasses graded either Prime or Choice. In summary, precision supplementation of TAN at 0.15%/kg DM to feedlot heifers consuming a high concentrate did not affect enteric gas emissions, animal performance, and carcass characteristics and quality.