

**Table 1.** Effect of winter-feeding system (grazing, GFS vs. feedlot, FFS) and feedlot feeding level (3.19%, 2.86%, 2.53% and 2.20% of BW) on animal performance and spring forage intake, utilization and digestibility during transition phase.

Variable	Winter dietary treatment						p-values	
	GFS	FFS				SE	GFS vs. FFS	FFS contrast (linear, L or quadratic, Q)
		2.20	2.53	2.86	3.19			
<i>Animal performance</i>								
Initial BW <sup>1</sup> , kg	215	246	264	275	282	3.6	***	L: ***
Final BW <sup>2</sup> , kg	253	270	284	295	298	4.5	***	L: ***
ADG P1 <sup>3</sup> , kg/d	0.438	-0.036	-0.518	-0.607	-0.679	0.084	***	Q: *
ADG P2 <sup>4</sup> , kg/d	1.130	0.897	0.978	1.009	0.902	0.085	ns	ns
ADG P1+P2 <sup>5</sup> , kg/d	0.899	0.592	0.486	0.479	0.379	0.121	**	ns
<i>Spring forage intake, utilization and digestibility</i>								
DMI <sup>6</sup> , kg/d	9.6	9.3	9.7	9.6	9.9	0.2	ns	ns
FU <sup>7</sup> , %	56.8	53.7	56.4	51.7	52.9	1.1	*	ns
DMD <sup>8</sup> , %	65.7	71.3	68.8	73.2	76.0	1.6	**	L: *
<i>Week 1</i>								
DMI, % BW	4.7	4.0	4.3	3.8	3.9	0.1	***	ns
Ruminal pH	6.7	6.0	5.9	5.9	6.3	0.2	***	ns
<i>Week 3</i>								
DMI, % BW	3.0	3.5	3.2	3.0	3.3	0.1	ns	ns
Ruminal pH	6.8	6.9	6.8	7.0	7.1	0.2	ns	ns
<i>Week 5</i>								
DMI, % BW	4.2	3.7	4.1	3.8	3.5	0.1	*	Q: *
Ruminal pH	6.9	7.0	7.2	7.3	7.5	0.2	ns	L: *

<sup>1</sup> Initial = Day 1 of transition phase; BW = Body weight

<sup>2</sup> Final = Day 42 of transition phase

<sup>3</sup> ADG = Average daily gain; P1 = Day 1 to 14 of transition phase

<sup>4</sup> P2 = Day 14 to 42 of transition phase

<sup>5</sup> P1+P2 = Day 1 to 42 of transition phase

<sup>6</sup> DMI = Dry matter intake

<sup>7</sup> FU = Forage utilization

<sup>8</sup> DMD = Dry matter digestibility

\*\*\* P < 0.001; \*\* P < 0.01; \* P < 0.05; ns P > 0.05