

INTRODUCTION

In 1952 Ouseley-Smith & Howes began a feeding trial with dairy cattle to investigate the feeding value of a bagasse pith, molasses and urea mixture as a milk production ration. The trial was not completed until July 1953 and Ouseley-Smith was able to write only an interim report based on about half the data eventually collected. The trial was the logical continuation of work carried out by Class in 1952 (X)(1) who conducted a pilot investigation along similar but more limited lines.

The object of the Ouseley-Smith experiment was to observe the influence on milk yields of feeding the experimental mixture up to 75% of the total concentrate intake of the animals concerned. In addition it was hoped that some pronouncement could be made, from data collected, as to the length of time required for animals to accustom themselves to a changed ration involving bagasse pith.

A literature review and details of experimental method are presented by Ouseley-Smith (1953) (2). The material presented here is concerned only with the compilation and statistical analysis of the data accumulated during this trial, and with such relevant literature as has been published during the latter part of 1953.

influencing urea utilisation by ruminants. They are the amount and nature of true protein contributed by the ration, the amount and type of carbohydrate in the ration, the level of urea toxicity and the length of the period in which urea is fed.