

## Effects of alfalfa intake levels on growth performance of Hanwoo steers at the growing stage

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This study was conducted to compare the growth performance of Hanwoo steers fed different levels of domestically produced alfalfa dried using a hot-air drying method during the growing stage. Twenty-seven steers (7 months old) were divided into three groups (no alfalfa, low level, and high level) and were fed TMR diets for 6 months. The results showed that as the alfalfa inclusion level increased, average daily gain significantly improved ( $p < 0.05$ ), and rump height also increased ( $p < 0.01$ ). In addition, the feed conversion ratio based on average daily gain and dry matter intake improved significantly ( $p < 0.01$ ). The low-level group exhibited an improvement of approximately 5.2%, and the high-level group showed an improvement of approximately 16.0% compared to the control group without alfalfa supplementation. Therefore, feeding alfalfa during the growing stage may enhance growth performance in Hanwoo steers. Further studies are needed to evaluate the economic benefits, including carcass performance and feed costs.

**Key words :** Hanwoo, alfalfa, feed conversion ratio, growth characteristics