

THE EFFECT OF TWO DIFFERENT DOSES OF SELENIUM YEAST AND SODIUM SELENITE ON SELENIUM LEVEL IN BLOOD, COLOSTRUM, MILK AND METABOLIC PROFILE IN DAIRY COWS

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Abstract. The aim of the study was to compare effects of two levels of selenium yeast (SY) and sodium selenite (SS) supplementation on blood, colostrum and milk Se levels, blood chemistry parameters in dairy cows under field conditions.

The study included 36 Holstein cows from 5 weeks prepartum to 12 weeks postpartum. The cows were divided into 4 treatments (n = 9): 1. Negative Control (NC) – no Se supplement; 2. Positive Control (PC) – 0.3 ppm Se (from sodium selenite); 3. S1 – 0.3 ppm Se (from selenium yeast – SELSAF[®], Lesaffre Feed Additives, France); 4. S2 – 5 ppm Se (SELSAF[®], Lesaffre Feed Additives, France).

At 5 and 1 weeks prepartum, on the calving day, and 4, 8, 12 weeks postpartum, blood samples were taken. Colostrum and milk were collected on the calving day and 4, 8 and 12 weeks postpartum and analysed for Se content. Initial Se status in all the cows was marginal. Negative Control cows showed suboptimal blood Se levels for the whole period under study. S1 and S2 showed significantly ($P < 0.01$) higher values than NC and PC cows. Colostrum Se levels were significantly higher in S1 (128.17 ug/L) and S2 (155.58 ug/L) than in NC (94.68 ug/L) and PC (99.3 ug/L) cows.

Overall mean milk Se levels in S1 (20.4 ug/L) and S2 (50.0 ug/L) were higher than in NC (10.9 ug/L) and PC (16.6 ug/L). Biochemical indicators of blood did not significantly differ between the treatments and were within the physiological ranges.

Se levels in whole blood, colostrum and milk, and GSH-Px activity were significantly increased by selenium yeast supplementation. The response was dose dependent and consistent. Selenium from organic source was more bioavailable than selenium from sodium selenite. Dietary Se at a tolerance dose (5 ppm) had no detrimental effect on the blood chemistry parameters analysed.

Keywords: dairy cows, selenium, yeast, milk

Introduction

It is known that feeding organic Se to ruminants can increase the levels of Se in both colostrum and milk. This can have a two-fold benefit. Firstly, higher levels of Se are passed to suckling offspring,

increasing their Se status and optimising health, immunity and growth rates. Secondly, the resulting milk can be marketed as a value added food for the human market, as selenium is also an essential nutrient for human health (Surai, 2008).

Selenium is recognized as an essential trace element and its deficiency has been associated with impaired growth, fertility, and health in farm livestock (Schwarz and Foltz, 1957; Weiss et al., 1990). Selenium is extremely important for the proper postnatal development of the calf. In the first weeks of life, milk is the only source of Se for the calf. However, Se content in milk is rather low (Ortman and Pehrson, 1999), therefore calves from mothers with insufficient Se supplementation often suffer from myodystrophic diseases and other disorders later in their lives. The level of absorption and retention of microelements is modulated by their actual levels in the body and their concentrations in the diet and is generally higher for intake of their organic forms, i.e. those bound to aminoacids (Knowles et al., 1999). The absorption takes place in the small intestine. SeMet is efficiently absorbed via the methionine transporting system, whereas the absorption of sodium selenite is less efficient and occurs mainly by passive diffusion (Weiss, 2003).

Several studies have shown that Se from sodium selenite is poorly transferred to milk (Ortman and Pehrson, 1999) and that it is unable to maintain the Se status of nursing calves (Koller et al., 1984; Ortman and Pehrson, 1999). Dietary supplementation of selenium yeast to cows results in higher concentrations of Se in milk than inorganic Se supplementation (Aspila, 1991; Malbe et al., 1995; Ortman and Person, 1997; Ortman and Pehrson, 1999; Mahan, 2000; Givens et al., 2004).

Selenium is a natural antioxidant. As an integral part of the enzyme glutathione peroxidase (GSH-Px). Se functions to prevent oxidative damage to body tissues (Hoekstra, 1974; Gryshchenko et al., 2016). Many researchers demonstrated a positive correlation between Se concentrations and GSH-Px activity in blood.

The aim of this study was to investigate the effect of Se source on Se levels in blood, colostrum and milk of dairy cows and whether a high level of supplementation with organic Se does not induce blood and milk Se levels exceeding the physiological range; and what is the dynamic of changes of Se levels in colostrum and milk. Furthermore, the effects of supplementation with different forms and levels of Se on some blood chemistry parameters were investigated.

Materials and methods of research

Management, animals and feeding

The study was performed on a dairy farm with 640 Holstein crossbred cows basic herd with average milk yield of 10.500 kg. The cows were housed loose in pens by 30–40 heads, with straw bedding. Each pen was milked and fed separately, migration of animals between pens was excluded. Cows in the initial lactation phase (ca. 3 weeks post partum) were milked three times a day, others twice a day. The cows were fed total mixed ration TMR. For the diet composition and analytical values see Tables 1 and 2.

1. Diet composition

Feed (kg/day)	Dry cow diet	Close-up diet	Fresh cow diet	Lactation diet
Clover-grass silage	10	8	9	11
Peas silage	4	5	7	7
Maize silage	6	10	14	14
Maize silage (ears + leaves)	0	2	6	4
Sugar beet pulp	4	6	8	6
Yeast	0	3	3	3
Hey	3.5	1.5	1.5	2
Straw	3	1	0.3	1.0
Concentrate	1	3.5	7.5	4.5
Peas seed	0	0.3	0.5	0.5
Bearley meal	0	2	3	2
Mineral Feed Mikrop M5	0	0.16	0.16	0.16
Monophos	0.25	0	0	0
Sugar	0.3	0	0	0

2. Analysed diet nutrient contents

Nutrient	Unit	Dry cow diet	Close-up diet	Fresh cow diet	Lactation diet
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		in fresh matter	in dry matter	in fresh matter	in dry matter	in fresh matter	in dry matter	in fresh matter	in dry matter
Dry matter	%	46.01	100	47.58	100	47.97	100	49.74	100
Crude protein	%	5.67	12.33	7.18	15.09	7.82	16.31	8.74	17.56
Fat	%	1.03	2.24	1.70	3.57	1.91	3.98	2.12	4.26
Crude Fibre	%	11.07	24.06	9.75	20.49	8.56	17.84	7.63	15.33
Ash	%	2.86	6.22	3.64	7.65	3.86	8.05	4.09	8.22
Nitrogen-free extract	%	25.37	55.15	25.32	53.21	25.82	53.82	27.17	54.62
ME cattle	%	4.27	9.27	4.95	10.41	5.63	11.73	5.95	11.96
Calcium	g/kg	3.10	6.73	3.44	7.24	4.40	9.17	4.85	9.75
Phosphorus	g/kg	1.55	3.36	1.7	3.57	2.15	4.49	2.45	4.92
Sodium	g/kg	0.23	0.51	0.58	1.22	1.96	4.08	2.22	4.47
Magnesium	g/kg	0.94	2.04	1.14	2.40	1.44	3.01	1.70	3.41
Selenium	mg/kg	0.045	0,098	0.077	0,162	0.096	0,201	0.108	0,218

Experimental design

In the trial, 36 cows were included. There were four experimental treatments, 9 cows each.

From 5 weeks before the expected calving date to 12 weeks after the calving, the cows received the respective experimental diets: 1) Negative Control diet with no Se supplement; 2) Positive Control diet with sodium selenite – 0.3 ppm Se; 3) S2 diet with selenium yeast – 0.3 ppm Se; 4) S2 diet with selenium yeast – 5 ppm Se.

Se supplements were administered as top dressing on TMR in the trough. For PC, S1 and S2, the Se supplements were provided via a wheat flour-wheat bran premix. NC received a wheat flour – wheat bran premix with no Se source added.

A regular diet on the farm is supplemented with 0.3 ppm Se from an inorganic source (sodium selenite). The regular Se supplement was withdrawn from the diet one month before the start of the trial to induce a marginal selenium status in the cows.

The detailed time schedule of the trial was as follows:

All Treatments
Day 0: Beginning of experimental diets, selection of cows for the experimental treatments according to calving date, parity, previous lactation performance; Blood collection from all the cows for biochemistry (Se, GSH-Px, urea, CK, TP, albumin, GMT, AST, ALT, Vitamin E)
1 wk prepartum: Blood collection – Se, biochemistry
Calving: Blood collection – Se, biochemistry Colostrum collection – Se concentration
4 wk postpartum: Blood collection – Se, biochemistry Milk collection – Se concentration
8 wk postpartum Blood collection – Se, biochemistry Milk collection – Se concentration
12 wk postpartum Blood collection – Se, biochemistry Milk collection – Se concentration

Samplings and laboratory analyses

Blood samples were taken from the tail vein of all the cows, using the HEMOS kit (1 lithium heparine, 1 K₃EDTA, and 1 serum tube). Milk and colostrum were collected in sterile tubes. The samples were frozen

at – 18 °C and processed in the end of the study. The blood chemistry parameters measured included total protein (TP), albumine (Alb), creatin phosphokinase (CK), aspartate aminotransferase (AST), gamma-glutamyltrasferase (GMT), alanine aminotransferase (ALT), vitamin E, and glutathione peroxidase (GSH-Px). Standard analytical techniques were used for these analyses (Central Clinical Laboratories, University of Veterinary and Pharmaceutical Sciences, CZ). The concentrations of Se in whole blood, milk and feed were analysed with hydride generation atomic absorption spectrophotometry (HG-AAS) as described by Sturman (1958). At the start of the trial, feed analyses were performed.

The raw data were statistically processed with the software SPSS. The cow represented the unit for statistical analysis. Data except colostrum Se content, milk composition and production were analysed by a mixed repeated procedure. Colostrum Se content, milk composition and production data were analysed by a variance analysis (ANOVA). Results were declared as significant from $P < 0.1$.

Results of the research and their discussion

Blood chemistry parameters

The values of TP, urea, billirubin, AST, GMT, CK were within physiological ranges (Table 3). AST and GMT liver enzyme values were not apparently influenced by Se supplementation. CK activity decreased with increasing levels of organic Se, suggesting an improved muscle metabolism due to organic Se supplementation. These results are in accordance with those received by Juniper et al. (2006) who did not find any significant effect between with different levels of supplemental Se from Se yeast and the unslupplemented control, with the exception of blood urea and glucose values.

The values we found were generally within the expected normal range (Beers and Berkow, 1998).

3. Mean blood chemistry values from cows supplemented with selenite or two different levels of selenium yeast

Index	NC	PC	S1	S2	SE	P
Total protein, g/L	73.8	75.0	75.4	74.8	0.6	NS
Urea (mmol/L)	4.8	4.75	4.9	4.9	0.2	NS
Billirubin (µmol/L)	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.3	0.1	NS
Aspartate aminotransferase, ukat/L	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	0.0	NS
Gamma-glutamyltrasferase, ukat/L	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.0	NS
Creatin phosphokinase, ukat/L	3.3 ^b	4.7 ^a	2.8 ^{b,c}	2.0 ^c	0.4	<0.01

Notes: ^{a,b,c} Means within a line with different superscripts differ significantly.

gGSH-Px activity

The activity of the selenoenzyme glutathione peroxidase is often considered to reflect the selenium concentration in whole blood. This was the case in this study, too. Levels of GSH-Px in the SY supplemented groups were significantly higher already in the fourth week of the study (1 wk prepartum) ($P < 0.01$) and the SS supplemented group the GSH-Px values were significantly lower than those in the NC only 9 weeks from the start of supplementation (Table 4).

This increase seems to be earlier than that reported by Ortman and Perhson (1999) who noted that in a 12-wk study comparing the effect of Se source, the GSH-Px activity in cows receiving either selenate, SS or SY remained relatively constant for the first 6 wk of the study, but then increased markedly in wk 6 to 12, with the highest values noted for cows receiving the diet containing SY.

On the contrary, Juniper et al. (2006) did not receive any significant treatment effect for either source or concentration of dietary selenium on GSH-Px, but in their study 5 wk periods were used in the Latin square design which might have not be long enough for differences to develop. Similarly, out of 11 studies reviewed by Weiss (2003), 9 reported no significant difference in GSH-Px activity when comparing SY with SS.

4. Glutathione peroxidase activity in erythrocytes (ukat/L) of cows when supplemented with selenite or two different levels of selenium yeast

Treatment	NC	PC (0.3ppm Se)	S1 (0.3ppm Se)	S2 (5 ppm Se)	P
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	GSH-Px (ukat/L)		GSH-Px (ukat/L)		GSH-Px (ukat/L)		GSH-Px (ukat/L)		
	Mean	S.D.	Mean	S.D.	Mean	S.D.	Mean	S.D.	
5 wk a.p.	701.69	22.13	606,52	59,57	658.31	58.43	640.04	47.48	
1 wk a.p.	688.48a	41.05	770,27ab	117,0	808.35b	81.88	1000.45c	89.05	< 0.01
Calving	692,20a	89.27	782,29a	96,48	968.51b	65.92	1062.96c	96.07	< 0.01
4 wk p.p.	687.40a	91.12	819,42b	70,84	1051.91c	111.09	1160.97d	71.87	< 0.01
8 wk p.p.	719,84a	4.28	826,15b	49,19	898.44c	322.79	1141.14d	94.61	< 0.01
12 wk p.p.	737.95a	108.62			1014.59b	44.84	1168.39c	94.58	< 0.01

Notes: ^{a,b,c,d} Means within a line with different superscripts differ significantly.

Selenium concentrations in blood

As shown in the Table 5, Se concentrations in blood in all the cows at the beginning of the trial, pre-supplementation, were suboptimal in all the experimental groups (NC – 69.06 ug/L, PC – 70.3 ug/L, S1 – 77.74 ug/L, S2 – 70.6 ug/L).

5. Mean whole blood selenium concentration for cows when supplemented with selenite or two different levels of selenium yeast

Treatment	NC		PC (0.3ppm Se)		S1 (0.3ppm Se)		S2 (5 ppm Se)		P
	Se (ug/L)		Se (ug/L)		Se (ug/L)		Se (ug/L)		
	mean	S.D.	mean	S.D.	mean	S.D.	mean	S.D.	
5 wk a.p.	69.16	5.0	70.3	5.7	77.7	7,3	70.6	6,7	
1 wk a.p.	68,2 ^a	6.2	90.8 ^a	7.0	97,7 ^b	7.7	155,0 ^c	22.1	< 0.01
Calving	67,0 ^a	5.6	93,6 ^b	7.9	109,1 ^c	7,9	152,2 ^d	16.5	< 0.01
4 wk p.p.	65,7 ^a	5.7	86,1 ^b	33.7	129,1 ^c	7.7	170,8 ^d	19.8	< 0.01
8 wk p.p.	68,9 ^a	4.3	105,1 ^b	7.0	128,6 ^c	11.2	184,4 ^d	9.9	< 0.01
12 wk p.p.	73,52 ^a	5.03	110,0 ^b	15.9	129,22 ^c	9.58	193,49 ^d	15.32	< 0.01

Notes: ^{a,b,c,d} Means within a line with different superscripts differ significantly.

The unsupplemented Negative Control cows showed suboptimal Se concentrations in blood for the whole experimental period, with the highest values in the weeks 8 and 12 postpartum (68.94 ug/L and 73.52 ug/L, respectively), but not significantly different.

The S1 (0.3 ppm Se as selenium yeast) and PC cows (0.3 ppm Se as sodium selenite) showed a steady increase in blood Se concentrations which were significantly higher ($P < 0.05$) than those of the NC. Mean values for the whole experimental period were 118 and 99 ug/L, respectively. Selenium concentration in blood of S1 cows was significantly higher than the one in PC cows ($P < 0.05$).

Se concentrations in blood of the S2 (5 ppm Se as Se yeast) cows was increasing quickly and already one week prepartum were more than twice as high as in the NC (68.18 vs. 155.09, $P < 0.01$). The blood Se concentrations were gradually increasing in S2 and reached 184.42 ug/L and 193.49 ug/L in the weeks 8 and 12 post partum, respectively. These values are relatively high and are considered as optimal by many scientists.

Similar benefits of SY over SS were reported by Fisher et al. (1995), Knowles et al. (1999), Pehrson et al., 1999, Juniper et al. (2006) and in the studies reviewed by Weiss (2003) who reported an overall mean 18% difference in blood Se concentrations between cows supplemented with equal amounts of Se yeast and sodium selenite in the studies reviewed.

The values received in this study were generally lower (even for the 5 ppm dose of Se from Se yeast) than those received by Juniper et al. (2006).

Selenium concentrations in colostrum and milk

As shown in Table 6, the differences in Se concentrations in colostrum between the experimental groups were considerable. As compared with the NC group (94.68 ug/L), Se colostrum concentrations were significantly ($P < 0.01$) higher with both the levels of SY (S1 – 128.17 ug/L; S2 – 155.58 ug/L), but not with SS as Se source.

6. Selenium concentrations in colostrum and milk for cows when supplemented with selenite or two different levels of selenium yeast

Treatment	NC		PC (0.3 ppm Se)		S1 (0.3 ppm Se)		S2 (5 ppm Se)		P
	Se (ug/L)		Se (ug/L)		Se (ug/L)		Se (ug/L)		
	mean	S.D.	mean	S.D.	mean	S.D.	mean	S.D.	
Calving	94.68 ^a	9.14	99.31 ^a	8.0	128.17 ^b	18.90	155.58 ^c	14.75	< 0.01
4 wk p.p.	10.10 ^a	3.38	15.93 ^b	2.22	21.24 ^b	2.46	37.01 ^c	14.84	< 0.01
8 wk p.p.	9.50 ^a	5.65	16.58 ^b	2.78	19.64 ^b	1.41	45.23 ^c	9.93	< 0.01
12 wk p.p.	9.09 ^a	5.21			20.06 ^b	2.16	56.49 ^c	24.53	< 0.01

Notes: ^{a,b,c} Means within a line with different superscripts differ significantly.

Se concentrations in milk of the NC cows were low throughout the experimental period, there was not a great variation between the individual cows. The S1 cows showed significantly ($P < 0.01$) higher concentrations than the control ones. The S2 cows showed the highest values, significantly ($P < 0.01$) higher than the NC and S1. Cows receiving SS had significantly higher Se levels in milk, similar to those supplemented with the lower dose of SY.

An increase of Se in milk of animals supplemented with SY as compared with those supplemented with SS has been reported to range from 34% (Juniper et al., 2006) to 90% (Weiss, 2003).

It has been demonstrated that Se content in colostrum is higher than that in milk (Micetic-Turk et al., 2000; Pavlata et al., 2004).

Significantly higher concentration of Se in milk of dayir cows supplemented with selenium yeast were also reported by Givens et al. (2004), Juniper et al. (2006) and other researchers. As suggested by Pehrson (1993), the increased selenium concentration in milk derived from diets containign Se may be due to the preferential mammary gland uptake of SeMet, which is readily incorporated into milk protein (Juniper et al., 2006).

Conclusion

The study investigated the effect of dietary supplementation with two different levels of Se from selenium yeast (recommended and tolerance levels) and sodium selenite in selenium deficient dairy cows in the period from 5 weeks prepartum to 12 weeks postpartum on selenium levels in blood and milk and blood chemistry.

The results have shown that the Se levels in whole blood, colostrum and milk were significantly increased by SY supplementation. The GSH-Px activity was also significantly improved by SY supplementation. The response was dose dependent and consistent. Both the experimental doses eliminated selenium deficiency.

In this trial, Se from organic source – selenium yeast – was more bioavailable than selenium from inorganic source-sodium selenite.

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Іллек Й., Кумпретова Д., Томчук В.А., Грищенко В.А., Калінін І.В. Вплив двох різних доз селено-містких дріжджів та селеніту натрію на рівень селену в крові, молозиві і молоці та металопрофіль у молочних корів (2021). Ukrainian Journal of Veterinary Sciences. Метою дослідження було порівняти вплив двох доз добавок селено-містких дріжджів (SY) та натрію

селеніту (SS) на рівень Se в крові, молозиві та молоці, біохімічні показники крові в молочних корів у польових умовах.

Дослідження включало 36 корів голштинської породи від 5 тижнів до отелення і 12 тижнів після них. Корів було поділено на 4 групи ($n = 9$): 1. Від'ємний контроль (NC) – без добавки Se; 2. Позитивний контроль (PC) – 0,3 проміле Se (з селеніту натрію); 3. Дослідна група S1 – 0,3 проміле Se (з селено-містких дріжджів – SELSAF®, кормові добавки Lesaffre, Франція); 4. Дослідна група S2 – 5 ppm Se (SELSAF®, кормові добавки Lesaffre, Франція).

Зразки крові від корів відбирали на 5 та 1 тижні до народження, у день отелення та на 4, 8 і 12 тиждів після отелення відбирали зразки крові. Молозиво і молоко вилучали в день отелення і на 4, 8 та 12 тиждів після нього і аналізували їх на вміст Se. Початковий рівень Se в крові корів усіх чотирьох груп був низьким. Впродовж усього досліджуваного періоду в крові корів групи NC спостерігався вихід рівня Se за оптимальні межі. У групах S1 і S2 встановлено вірогідно ($P < 0,01$) вищі його значення, ніж у корів NC і PC груп. Рівень Se у молозиві у корів груп S1 (128,17 мкг/л) і S2 (155,58 мкг/л) був значно вищим, ніж у корів груп NC (94,68 мкг/л) і ПК (99,3 мкг/л).

Загальний середній рівень Se в молоці корів дослідних груп S1 (20,4 мкг/л) та S2 (50,0 мкг/л) був вищим, ніж у контрольних групах NC (10,9 мкг/л) і ПК (16,6 мкг/л). Біохімічні показники крові тварин з різних груп істотно не відрізнялися і знаходилися в межах фізіологічних діапазонів.

Рівень Se в цільній крові, молозиві та молоці корів, а також активність глутатіонпероксидази значно підвищувалися за рахунок добавок селено-містких дріжджів. Відповідь організму була дозозалежною та опосередкованою. Селен з органічних джерел був біодоступнішим, ніж із селеніту натрію. Добавка Se з допустимою дозою (5 проміле) не мала негативного впливу на досліджувані біохімічні показники крові.

Ключові слова: молочні корови, селен, дріжджі, молоко