

Ask a Farmer: Diet

Interviewer: So did the heavily muscled cow require like a special type of diet compared to a typical?

Farmer: No and that's interesting, the only thing that we would do different with the Belgian Blues when they are born - now this is just for our area - we would give them a shot of selenium because our area is very low in selenium, and with the heavily-muscled that seemed to affect them so as soon as they're born, we always gave him a shot of just 2 CC's I think, of selenium. I would assume other areas that are higher in selenium wouldn't do that. And then diet part is funny because the cattle we bought out of Canada - when they came down I was appalled! I went to feed them ground corn (which is corn and oats) and they wouldn't eat it. I found out, well up there they eat barley. That's their diet. So the next time I bought them, he sent... and they got on to corn after a while, but at first when I put it in front of them they were like, "I am not eating that." So the next time we bought cattle from him he sent barley down with him, and we have gone to a conference up in Canada, and I was so excited to talk to other people that... from Europe, that fed their animals and what they fed them... well, it's where your region is. They feed a lot of beet pulp. Yeah over there... it's I guess whatever is in your region is what you feed your cattle. The same with the hay crop. We had sold bulls down south and they had trouble with... they had to supplement them more, whereas we didn't have to supplement them with grain, but our hay up here is so much better quality than theirs. So as far as diet goes, I guess the Belgian Blues would go with whatever there is in their region.