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A Comparison of Synovex-S® and STEER-oid®  
Implants for Finishing Cattle

Jack Riley, Gary Goldy, and Ron Pope

### Summary

There were no significant differences in performance or carcass traits for finishing cattle implanted with either Synovex-S® or STEER-oid®. The 122-day trial used 180 steers, with each treatment having 15 replicates.

### Introduction

Synovex-S® and STEER-oid® are generic equivalents which both contain 200 mg progesterone and 20 mg estradiol benzoate per implant of eight pellets. Since the implants are produced by different companies, there continue to be questions regarding apparent differences in hardness, release rate, length of effectiveness, and comparative responses. Recent studies from Texas, Minnesota, and Kansas reported no significant differences between the two implants.

### Experimental Procedure

One hundred eighty Angus x Hereford crossbred yearling steers were blocked by weight and randomly allotted to 30 feeding pens. Steers in 15 pens were implanted with Synovex-S and steers in the other 15 pens received STEER-oid. All steers were reimplanted with their respective implants on day 56 of the trial. All steers were eartagged, vaccinated for IBR, BVD, Leptospirosis, and 7-way clostridium, and wormed with injectable Tramisol®.

Individual initial and final weights were taken after a 16-hour removal from feed. The diet contained (D.M. basis) 84% dry rolled milo, 10% sorghum silage, and 6% supplement. Calculated analysis was 10.8% crude protein and 75.0% dry matter. The diet also contained 30 grams/ton of Rumensin.

### Results and Discussion

The results of the trial are shown in Table 9.1. There were no significant differences in average feedlot performance nor in carcass characteristics between the two implants for the 122-day trial. Individual full weights taken at 28-day intervals also were not significantly different, which further indicates similar activity and response.

Table 9.1. Effect of Synovex-S or STEER-oid Implants on Performance and Carcass Characteristics of Finishing Steers.

Item	Synovex-S	STEER-oid
Pens	15	15
No. steers	90	89
Days on feed	122	122
Initial wt., lb.	721.2	726.6
Final wt., lb.	1141.2	1141.9
Gain, lb.	420.0	415.3
Daily gain, lb.	3.44	3.40
Intake, as fed, lb.	30.77	30.67
Feed/Gain, as fed, lb.	8.94	9.02
Carcass wt., lb.	696.1	693.2
Yield grade	2.88	2.88
Quality grade:		
No. prime	3	1
No. choice	80	84
No. good	7	4
Abscessed livers	15	8