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Abstract

Three hundred-ninety crossbred heifers were allotted randomly to one of three implant treatments: 1) Implus-H^{\circ}, 2) Synovex-H^{\circ}, and 3) Ralgro^{\circ}. The heifers grazed native grass pastures for 122 days, stocked at 4 acres per head. The heifers receiving the Implus-H tended to gain faster (P<.12) than the Ralgro heifers. No difference in gain occurred between the Implus-H and Synovex-H heifers.

Keywords

Cattlemen's Day, 1995; Kansas Agricultural Experiment Station contribution; no. 95-357-S; Report of progress (Kansas State University. Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service); 727; Beef; Implant; Grazing cattle; Native grass

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THE EFFECT OF IMPLANTS ON GAIN OF HEIFERS GRAZING NATIVE GRASS¹

F. K. Brazle² and D. L. Cook³

Summary

Three hundred-ninety crossbred heifers were allotted randoml y to one of three implant treatments: 1) Implus- H \mathbb{B} , 2) Synovex-H \mathbb{B} , and 3) Ralgro \mathbb{B} . The heifers grazed native grass pastures for 122 days, stocked at 4 acres per head. The heifers receiving the Implus-H tended to gain faster (P<.12) than the Ralgro heifers. No difference in g in occurred between the Implus-H and Synovex-H heifers.

(Key Words: Implant, Grazing Cattle, Native Grass.)

Introduction

Yearling cattle that graze native bluestem grass may be on pasture longer than the normal implant payout. The normal grazing season on native grass is 125 to 150 days. These cattle may graze in large pastures that are not equipped with catch pens and chutes to reimplant them. Therefore, the object of this study was to compare the effects of three implants on gains of grazing heifers for a 120to 125-day grazing season on native bluestem grass.

Experimental Procedures

British \times Continental crossbre dheifer calves were purchased in December and

January and were not implanted until time for native grass in April. The heifers had been selected for uniformity from a larger group and were allott ed randomly by assigning every third heifer down the chute to each treatment. The implant treatments were: 1) Impl **u**-H® implant, 2) Synovex-H® implant, and 3) Ralgro® implant injected in mid 1/3 of the ear.

The heifers were weighed individually on April 7 and 8 and August 9 and 10 in the early morning. They grazed burned native bluestem grass pastures and were stocked at 4 acres per head. The heifers had access to a free-choice salt-mineral mixture containin gchlortetracycline (350 mg/animal/day).

Results and Discussion

Results of implant effects on g **a**ns of heifers are shown in Table 1. Heifers implanted with Implus-H showed a trend (P<.12) toward improved ADG for 122 days compared to heifers implanted with Ralgro. This trend in results most likely was a functio nof the length of time that the implants were at a desired payout level. Ralgr oimplants have an expected payout period of 90 days, whereas the payout period for the other two implants is longer. No differenc e in ADG occurred between Implus-H and Synovex-H implanted heifers.

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Item	Implus-H	Synovex-H	Ralgro
No. heifers	128	128	129
Starting wt., lb	486	487	487
ADG, lb	1.78 ^b	1.77 ^{ab}	1.72 ^ª
Days	122	122	122

Table 1. The Effect of Implants on Gain of Heifers Grazing Native Grass Pastures

 $^{{}_{a,b}}\mbox{Means}$ in the same row with unlike superscripts are different (P < .12).

Irand	Sex	Phase ¹	Active Ingred. ²	Payout, Days
algro	Both	SOF	36 Zeronal	70-90
novez-C	Both	S	10 Est + 100 Prog	90-110
lf-oid	Both	S	10 Est + 100 Prog	90-110
wvex-S	Steers	GF	20 Eat + 200 Prog	90-100
plus-S	Steers	GF	20 Est + 200 Prog	90-100
iovez-H	Heifers	GF	20 Est + 200 Test	90-100
olus-H	Heifers	GF	20 Est + 200 Test	90-100
mpudose	Steers	SGF	24 Est	150-180
mpudose	Heifers	F	24 Est	150-180
aplix-S	Steers	GF	140 TBA	60-90
unplix-H	Heifers	GF	200 TBA	60-90
valor-S	Steers	F	120 TBA + 24 Est	100-120
ralor-H	Heifers	F	140 TBA + 14 Est	100-120