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D. Simms

A. Dinkel

D. Jepsen

See next page for additional authors

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Comparison of Ralgro® and Compudose® implants for suckling steer calves

Authors

D. Simms, A. Dinkel, D. Jepsen, and R. Schalles

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Comparison of Ralgro® and Compudose® Implants
for Suckling Steer Calves¹

Danny Simms², Allen Dinkel³,
Del Jepsen⁴, and Robert Schalles

Summary

Two field trials were conducted to compare Ralgro and Compudose for suckling steer calves. Ralgro, Ralgro re-implanted, and Compudose increased gain over controls 2.5, 5.9, and 1.5%, respectively, with only the increase from Ralgro re-implanted being significant ($P < .05$). Ralgro reimplanted steers gained more than Compudose steers ($P < .05$).

Introduction

A new 200 day implant, Compudose, was approved recently for suckling steer calves. These trials were conducted to compare Compudose with a single Ralgro implant and a Ralgro re-implant program for suckling calves.

Experimental Procedure

Suckling Simmental-cross steer calves on 2 Kansas ranches were randomly assigned to the following treatments: 1) Control (no implant), 2) a 36 mg Ralgro implant at 1 to 3 months of age, 3) a 36 mg Ralgro implant at 1 to 3 months of age and again at 4 to 6 months of age, or 4) a Compudose implant at 1 to 3 months of age. Individual, non-shrunk weights were taken at the time of initial implanting (branding) and at weaning. Starting and weaning dates were May 8 and October 8 (153 days) for trial 1 and May 3 and October 25 (175 days) for trial 2. Reimplanting was on day 92 of trial 1 and day 115 of trial 2.

Results

Based on least square means for both trials (Table 33.1), Ralgro, Ralgro re-implanted, and Compudose increased average daily gains 2.5, 5.9, and 1.5%, respectively, over control. Ralgro reimplanted steers gained significantly ($P < .05$) faster than Compudose or control steers. A single Ralgro implant increased ADG slightly more than Compudose in both trials, but the difference was not significant. Retention of the Compudose implants was not a major problem; only 5 out of 84 (6%) were lost by the end of the trials.

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²Northwest Area Extension Livestock Specialist.

³Decatur County Extension Agricultural Agent.

⁴Russell County Extension Agricultural Agent.

Table 33.1. Comparison of Ralgro and Compudose Implants for Suckling Calves

| | Implant treatment | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| | Control | Ralgro | Ralgro-Reimplanted | Compudose |
| <u>Trial 1 - 153 days</u> | | | | |
| No. of steers | 13 | 19 | 20 | 42 |
| Initial wt, lb | 171.5 | 173.2 | 168.8 | 168.3 |
| Final wt, lb | 463.8 | 472.9 | 466.5 | 462.4 |
| Total gain, lb | 292.3 | 299.7 | 297.7 | 294.1 |
| Avg. daily gain, lb | 1.91 | 1.96 | 1.95 | 1.92 |
| <u>Trial 2 - 175 days</u> | | | | |
| No. of steers | 13 | 50 | 19 | 42 |
| Initial wt, lb | 203.8 | 210.7 | 211.1 | 202.7 |
| Final wt, lb | 572.5 | 591.3 | 613.8 | 576.7 |
| Total gain, lb | 368.7 | 379.6 | 402.7 | 374.0 |
| Avg. daily gain, lb | 2.11 | 2.17 | 2.30 ^a | 2.14 |
| <u>Trials 1 and 2</u> | | | | |
| Overall | | | | |
| Avg. daily gain, lb | 2.04 ^a | 2.09 ^{ab} | 2.16 ^b | 2.07 ^a |

^{ab}Values with different superscripts differ significantly ($P < .05$).

WHAT IS COMPUDOSE?

Compudose-200 is a new, long lasting implant for use in suckling, growing and finishing steers. The 3/16" X 1" implant consists of an inert, cylindrical core of silicone rubber coated with another thin layer of silicone that is impregnated with 24 mg of estradiol, a natural hormone. This estradiol is slowly, evenly released from the silicone over about 200 days. Because the implant is pliable, there is no trouble with crushing during implanting. Compudose has no withdrawal period prior to slaughter.