Kansas Agricultural Experiment Station Research Reports

Volume 0
Issue 1 *Cattleman's Day (1993-2014)*

Article 1161

1982

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Recommended Citation

Jensen, M.; Held, R.; Smith, E.F.; and Riley, Jack G. (1982) "Feeding Rumensin to yearling heifers on late-summer grass," *Kansas Agricultural Experiment Station Research Reports*: Vol. 0: Iss. 1. https://doi.org/10.4148/2378-5977.2564

Feeding Rumensin to yearling heifers on late-summer grass

Abstract

Rumensin was self-fed in a loose salt mixture to yearling heifers on late-summer bluestem pasture (August to November). They ate 0.036 lbs. of salt mixture (124 mg of Rumensin) daily, but performance did not improve.

Keywords

Cattlemen's Day, 1982; Report of progress (Kansas State University. Agricultural Experiment Station); 413; Beef; Rumensin; Heifers; Bluestem pasture

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Feeding Rumensin[R] to Yearling Heifers on Late-summer Grass

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Summary

Rumensin was self-fed in a loose salt mixture to yearling heifers on late-summer bluestem pasture (August to November). They ate 0.036 lbs. of salt mixture (124 mg of Rumensin) daily, but performance did not improve.

Introduction

Rumensin has been shown to improve the gain and efficiency of grazing cattle. Its intake has been regulated in a variety of ways. We tested regulating Rumensin intake in a loose salt mixture.

Experimental Procedure

Thirty-two Angus, Hereford, and crossbred heifers were grazed in four groups from August 4 to November 4, 1981. Two groups received a salt/Rumensin mixture and the other two were fed only salt. The cattle were allotted into four pastures, at an average stocking rate of 8 acres per head. The pastures had not been grazed since spring. The heifers were rotated between pastures every 2 weeks. The mixtures were fed free-choice in commercial mineral feeders. The amount fed was weighed and adjusted weekly according to intake. The cattle were weighed at the first of each month, after being penned overnight without feed or water.

Results and Discussion

Average daily gains of 0.72 pounds for Rumensin-group steers were statistically similar to the 0.67 pounds for the controls. The average daily Rumensin intake ranged from 18.4 to 200.5 mg. Adding Rumensin to the salt decreased salt intake by 22.8%. The wide variation of salt intake on the dry, mature grass prevented the close regulation of Rumensin intake. Also, the maturity of the late-summer grass contributed to decreased gain and could have affected the response.

[R]Rumensin, product of Elanco Products Co., Indianapolis, IN 46706.