Kansas Agricultural Experiment Station Research Reports

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

Article 1353

1975

Performance and carcass characteristics of Chianina-X steers

Jack G. Riley

G. Fink

Performance and Carcass Characteristics of Chianina-X Steers

Jack Riley and Galen Fink

Summary

Chianina-X steers gained consistently during a 151-day finishing test and produced high yielding carcasses with 0.06 in. fat and 1.71 square in. of loin per hundred pounds of carcass. Average USDA quality grade was between high good and low choice.

Introduction

Glenkirk Farms, Maysville, Mo., and the Kansas State University Animal Science and Industry Department cooperated in a project to evaluate performance and carcass characteristics of 40 Chianina-X steers. The predominant dam breed represented was Angus. Because Chianina is one of the newest exotic breeds introduced to the United States, data on their rate and efficiency of gain and their relative carcass merits were desired.

Experimental Procedure

The 40 steers were started on trial April 16, 1974, averaging 779 pounds after a 15-hour shrink and fed an average of 151 days. Final slaughter weight averaged 1177 lbs. when adjusted to an equal dressing percentage. The finishing rations (70-85% concentrate) were similar to those used in trials at the Beef Research Unit. Weights were taken at 28-day intervals and carcass data obtained for each steer at slaughter.

Results and Discussion

Performance and carcass characteristics are presented in table 17.1. The rate of growth was extremely consistent for each 28-day weight interval, including just before slaughter, which indicates that the steers could have been fed to heavier slaughter weights if rate of gain were the only criterion for length of feeding period. However, the efficiency of gain and, consequently, cost of gain became prohibitive the final month.

The carcasses were highly desirable in color and trimness. U.S.D.A. grade was between high good and low choice, indicating several carcasses borderline in marbling. The average rib eye area was smaller than normal for carcasses of their weight.

Only a small portion of the Chianina crossbred steers produced in the United States were represented in trial 1. Our data indicate that they will gain consistently, produce attractive, high yielding carcasses and gain efficiently during early stages of growth.

Table 17.1. Performance and Carcass Characteristics of Chianina-X Steers Fed 151-days, 1974.

Item		Item	
No. of steers	40	Daily D.M. intake,lb.	24.3
Initial wt., lb.	779.1	D.M./gain, lb.(151 days)	9.24
Final wt., lb.	1176.5	D.M./gain, lb. (1st 56 days)	7.24
Total gain, lb.	397.4	D.M./gain,lb.(Final 33 days)	12.91
A.D.G., lb.	2.63		
Carcass wt., lb.	736.9		
Fat thickness, in.	0.44		
Rib eye area, sq. in.	12.60		
Kidney fat, %	2.76		
U.S.D.A. grade[a]	10.40		
Yield grade	2.92		

[a]High Good = 10, low Choice = 11.