

Kansas Agricultural Experiment Station Research Reports

Volume 0

Issue 12 *Keeping up with Research*

Article 22

1977

Creep Feeding Fall Calves on Fescue Pasture

Leslie J. Chyba

Fred W. Boren

Follow this and additional works at: <https://newprairiepress.org/kaesrr>

Recommended Citation

Chyba, Leslie J. and Boren, Fred W. (1977) "Creep Feeding Fall Calves on Fescue Pasture," *Kansas Agricultural Experiment Station Research Reports*: Vol. 0: Iss. 12. <https://doi.org/10.4148/2378-5977.7259>

This report is brought to you for free and open access by New Prairie Press. It has been accepted for inclusion in Kansas Agricultural Experiment Station Research Reports by an authorized administrator of New Prairie Press. Copyright 1977 Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service. Contents of this publication may be freely reproduced for educational purposes. All other rights reserved. Brand names appearing in this publication are for product identification purposes only. No endorsement is intended, nor is criticism implied of similar products not mentioned. K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Creep Feeding Fall Calves on Fescue Pasture

Keywords

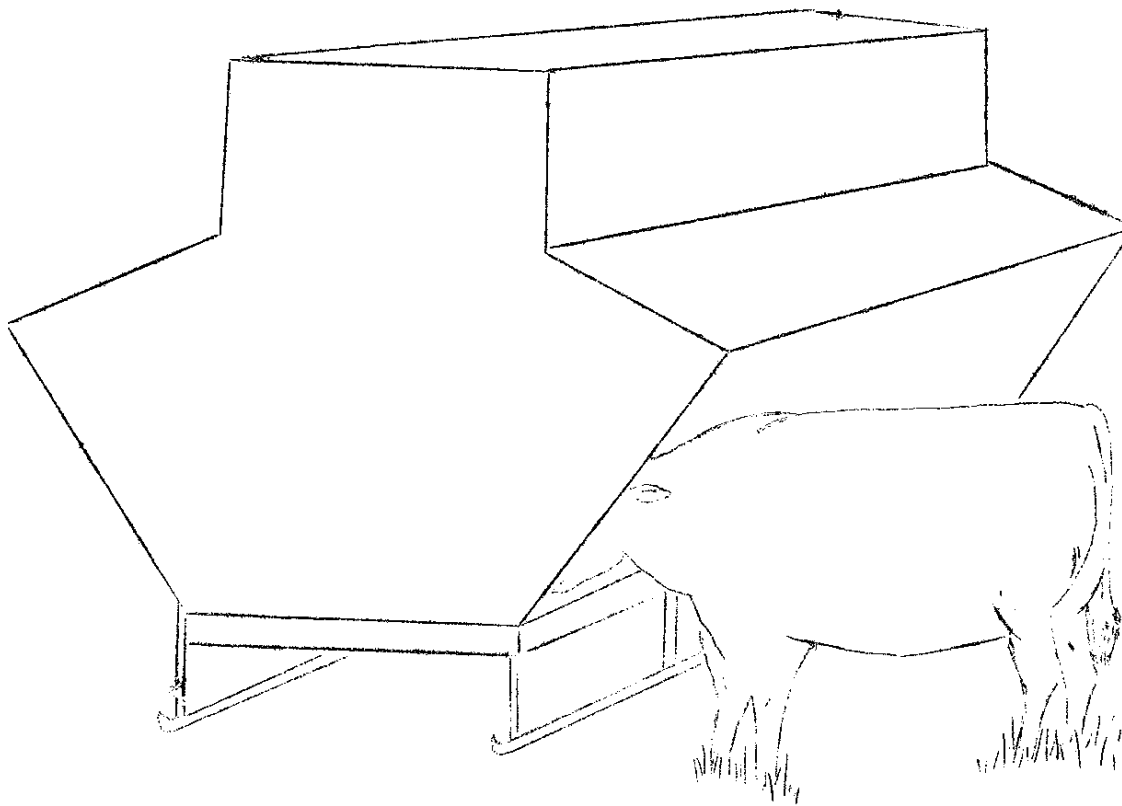
Keeping up with research; 35 (Dec. 1977); Kansas Agricultural Experiment Station contribution; no. 78-34-S; Creep feeding; Fall calves; Fescue; Pasture; Hereford

Creative Commons License

This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).

KEEPING UP WITH RESEARCH 10
Contribution No. 45
November 1974

CREEP FEEDING FALL CALVES ON FESCUE PASTURE



AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
Kansas State University, Manhattan
Floyd W. Smith, Director
SOUTHEAST KANSAS BRANCH
Mound Valley
Fred W. Boren, Superintendent

Creep Feeding Fall Calves on Fescue Pasture

Leslie J. Chyba, Beef Scientist
Fred W. Boren, Station Superintendent

In previous research¹ with fall-dropped calves on fescue, we noted that fescue quality and calf gains were related. Calf rate of gain would slow in mid-winter, then with the on set of lush grass, gains would increase sharply, only to slow when fescue became semi-dormant in the summer. To help maintain gains throughout the pre-weaning period, we thought creep feeding could offer a practical method of maintaining gains and increasing weaning weights.

In July, 1973, we allotted 16 head of pregnant Hereford cows by weight to two groups and put them into two 15-acre fescue pastures. Cows and pastures were handled in a similar manner. The K-31 fescue pasture was fertilized with 120 pounds of actual nitrogen, 55 pounds of P_2O_5 , and 50 pounds of K_2O in September and another 80 pounds actual nitrogen in February. Cow weights were taken every 28 days. After all cows calved, a creep feeder was placed in one pasture. Creep feed offered was a 14% protein, 70% TDN ration consisting of 55% rolled milo, 10% soybean oil meal, 30% oats, and 5% molasses. The ration was changed to a rolled milo and soybean meal mixture (14% crude protein) midway through the study, to reduce ration costs.

Creep fed calves ate approximately 3.8 pounds of creep feed per day of age during the entire feeding period, or 1013 pounds per head. Calves ate no appreciable amount of feed until they were two months old. Intake peaked at 9 pounds per head per day one month before calves were weaned. Eight and one-half pounds of grain was needed to produce 1 pound of additional beef by the creep fed calves. During 1974 when unfavorable price relations between grain and beef production existed, creep feeding was not a profitable practice.

These same calves are now being used in a growing-finishing study. We are trying to evaluate a complete program; i.e., grain from birth to slaughter and what influence creep feeding has on animal performance in a drylot finishing situation.

1. Chyba, L., and H. B. Perry, 1972. Beef Production of Fescue Pasture. Report of Progress 195. Southeast Kansas Branch Experiment Station, Mound Valley, Kansas, 67354.

Table 1. Creep feeding fall calves.

	Creep	Noncreep
No. of calves	8	8
Avg. birth date	Oct. 26	Nov. 14
Birth wt., lbs.	64.1	65.0
Weaning wt., lbs.	511.25	393.13
Wt. gain, lbs.	447.15	328.13
Avg. daily gain, lbs.	1.69	1.33
Total lbs. creep feed per calf	1013.00	-----
Total lbs. creep feed per lb. gain	8.50	-----

Information in this report is for farmers, producers, colleagues, industry cooperators, and other interested persons. It is not a recommendation or endorsement as it is not yet backed by enough research.

Contribution no. 45, Southeast Kansas Branch Experiment Station, Mound Valley, Kansas Agricultural Experiment Station, Kansas State University.

Publications and public meetings by the Kansas Agricultural Experiment Station are available and open to the public regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, or religion.