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Effect of Bovatec^{1,3} on Grazing Steer PerformanceLyle W. Lomas²Summary

Steers fed 100 mg or 200 mg of Bovatec¹ per head daily while grazing brome brome grass gained 16.4% and 23.9% faster, respectively, during 112 days of grazing than did controls.

Introduction

Previous research has shown Bovatec to be effective in increasing rate of gain and improving feed efficiency in feedlot cattle. Limited research has shown Bovatec to be effective in increasing rate of gain in grazing cattle. Our trial evaluated two levels of Bovatec in a grazing study.

Procedure

Seventy-two Simmental steers, averaging 645 lb, from one ranch were randomly allotted by weight to nine 10-acre brome grass pastures on June 24, 1981; so each pasture contained eight steers. Their treatments were: 1) control; 2) 100 mg of Bovatec per head daily; and 3) 200 mg of Bovatec per head daily. Each treatment was replicated three times.

All cattle received 3 lb of dry, rolled milo per head daily for the first 84 days and 5 lb for the last 28 days. Cattle on Bovatec received the additive daily; it was mixed with the rolled milo.

All cattle had free access to a mixture of equal parts steamed bone meal and trace-mineral salt and were provided fly control by dust bags.

Steers were weighed every 28 days. Initial and final weights were taken after a 16-hour shrink off feed and water. The study was terminated after 112 days, on October 14, 1981.

Results

During this 112-day grazing study, steers fed 100 mg of Bovatec per head daily gained 16.4% ($P < .05$) and those fed 200 mg gained 23.9% ($P < .01$) more than control steers did (Table 22.1). There was no statistically significant difference ($P > .20$) between Bovatec levels. Bovatec caused no palatability problems.

¹Bovatec is the trademark name for lasalocid sodium produced by Hoffmann-LaRoche, Inc., Nutley, N.J. 07110. Feed additive and partial financial assistance provided by Hoffmann-LaRoche, Inc.

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³Bovatec is not currently cleared by the FDA for use in cattle.

Table 22.1. Effect of Bovatec on Steer Performance - 112 days

Item	Level of Bovatec (mg/head/day)		
	0	100	200
No. of steers	24	24	24
Initial wt, lb	644	639	642
Final wt, lb	794 ^{a,c}	813 ^{b,c,d}	827 ^{b,d}
Total gain, lb	150 ^{a,c}	174 ^{b,c,d}	185 ^{b,d}
Average daily gain, lb	1.34 ^{a,c}	1.56 ^{b,c,d}	1.66 ^{b,d}

^{a,b} Values in the same row with different superscripts differ significantly ($P < .05$).

^{c,d} Values in the same row with different superscripts differ significantly ($P < .01$).