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Worming Steers Grazing
Summer Bluestem Pasture

E. F. Smith and J. S. Woolfolk

One hundred and sixty-three black steers averaging 402 pounds were grazed from May 2 to October 3, 1972, on native bluestem pasture. They were assembled by a buying firm in Memphis, Tenn., and delivered March, 1972, averaging about 350 pounds. They were fed corn silage, alfalfa hay, and about 5 pounds of grain each daily until started on test May 2. They were allotted to different pastures described in Table 1. Even numbered steers in each pasture (about half) received one bolus of thiabendazole (15 grams) as a worming agent.

The worming agent did not significantly affect gains.

Table 1. Effect of worming on steers grazing summer bluestem pasture May 2 to October 3, 1972, (155 days)

	Total no. of steers ¹	Received thiabendazole Avg. daily gain, lbs.	No thiabendazole Avg. daily gain, lbs.
Nonburned pasture, no nitrogen applied	30	0.93	1.00
40# N/Acre	20	1.00	0.99
80# N/Acre	42	0.77	0.75
Burned pasture, no nitrogen applied	26	1.30	1.28
40# N/Acre	14	1.45	1.39
80# N/Acre	31	1.27	1.28

¹Even numbered steers under each treatment received thiabendazole.