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Compudose® Compared with Synovex-H® for Finishing Yearling Heifers¹

Scott B. Laudert²

Summary

Feedlot heifers implanted once with either Compudose® or Synovex-H® performed similarly, with daily gains of 3.16 vs 3.27 lbs, respectively. Compudose retention in the ear was 97.5%. Implant site abscess rate was 2.5% for Compudose and 13.7% for Synovex-H.

Introduction

Compudose® was recently approved for use in feedlot heifers. This trial was conducted to compare the performance of heifers implanted with Compudose® and Synovex-H® under commercial feeding conditions.

Experimental Procedures

One hundred fifty-two predominately British and British cross heifers averaging 697 lbs were randomly assigned by breed type to either Compudose or Synovex-H implant treatments. Both implant brands were administered subcutaneously in the middle third of the ear by a skilled technician familiar with their application. Each heifer was individually identified, weighed, and implanted at the time of initial processing. All animals were fed in the same pen and managed similarly.

All heifers were slaughtered after a 111-day feeding period. Individual carcass weights were divided by the average dressing percentage of the group (63.1%) to estimate individual live slaughter weights. Least squares means procedures were used to analyze the gain data, with initial heifer weight employed as a covariate.

Results

Results are presented in Table 12.1. No difference ($P=.32$) in heifer daily gain was found between the two implants over the 111-day trial. These results should not be extrapolated to heifers fed for greater lengths of time, however. Compudose retention was 97.5%. Implant site abscess rate was 2.5% for Compudose and 13.7% for Synovex-H.

¹ Appreciation is expressed to Grant County Feeders, Ulysses, KS for supplying cattle and facilities and to National Beef Packers, Liberal, KS for slaughter assistance.

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Table 12.1 Compudose vs Synovex-H Implants for Finishing Yearling Heifers

Item	Compudose	Synovex-H
No. Heifers	79	73
Initial Wt. lb	691	703
Final Wt. lb	1041	1066
Daily Gain, lb	3.16	3.27
Implant Site Abscess %	2.5	13.7
Compudose Retention, %	97.5	--

