Kansas Agricultural Experiment Station Research Reports

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

Article 1137

1983

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Recommended Citation

Laudert, S. and Nelson, R. (1983) "Effect of Synovex-H and Ralgro implants on weight gain of heifers grazing wheat pasture," *Kansas Agricultural Experiment Station Research Reports*: Vol. 0: Iss. 1. https://doi.org/10.4148/2378-5977.2540

Effect of Synovex-H and Ralgro Implants on Weight Gain of Heifers Grazing Wheat Pasture[1]

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Summary

Heifer calves grazing winter wheat pasture and implanted with Synovex-H or Ralgro gained 18 and 14% faster (P<.01) respectively, than heifers not implanted. Weight gains were similar for both implants.

Experimental Procedure

One hundred and eighty-two straightbred and crossbred heifer calves averaging 415 lbs were randomly allotted by breed and purchase source to one of the following four treatments: 1) control (no implant); 2) Synovex-H inserted at the recommended site; 3) Synovex-H inserted at the base of the ear, or 4) Ralgro inserted at the base of the ear. Each heifer was individually weighed at the beginning and end of the 138 day trial. All heifers grazed together throughout the trial.

Results

Both implants increased (P<.01) rate of gain over that of the control heifers (Table 32.1). There were no significant differences among the implants, and there was no advantage to altering the site of implanting Synovex-H.

Table 32.1. Effect of Implanting Wheat Pasture Heifers with Ralgro or Synovex-H.

Treatment	No. Heifers	Initial Weight (lb)	Final Weight (lb)	Total Gain (lb)	Daily Gain (lb)
Control	44	412	562	150[c]	1.09[c]
Synovex-H[a]	47	407	585	178[d]	1.29[d]
Synovex-H[b]	47	415	595	180[d]	1.30[d]
Ralgro[a]	44	424	596	172[d]	1.24[d]

[a]Implant inserted at recommended site in middle third of ear.
[b]Implant inserted at base of the ear.
[c,d]Means with different superscripts differ (P<.01).

[1]Appreciation is expressed to Jim Harper, Ashland, KS for supplying cattle and facilities, Synovex-H Agri Business, Inc. for financial support and implants, and International Minerals and Chemical Corporation for implants.
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