

Kansas Agricultural Experiment Station Research Reports

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

Article 1128

1983

Survey of Kansas Cow-calf producers

Jack G. Riley

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Recommended Citation

Riley, Jack G. (1983) "Survey of Kansas Cow-calf producers," *Kansas Agricultural Experiment Station Research Reports*: Vol. 0: Iss. 1. <https://doi.org/10.4148/2378-5977.2531>

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Survey of Kansas Cow-calf Producers

Jack Riley

Summary

Results of a 1982 survey were compared to a similar survey conducted 5 years earlier to determine if the acceptance of management practices had changed during that time period. The cow herd size was similar in both surveys but there was a 6% increase in crossbred cows and a substantial change in sire breed. The breeding season had been shortened to 110 days but was still too long. There was no apparent change in acceptance of semen testing or pregnancy checking but 23% more producers were using a worming program. Fly control ear tags were not available in 1977-78 but 68% were using them in 1982 (69% used 1 tag per animal and 31% used 2) with a majority tagging both the cow and calf. Implanting had increased from 25% to 58%, with 95% of those using Ralgro and 43% re-implanting at least once. In 1977-78 a feeder calf price of \$47.25 per cwt. was considered desirable; \$65 per cwt. was the average response in 1982.

Introduction

Report of Progress 350 (March, 1979) summarized the results of a survey conducted between Nov. 1977 and April 1978 of 350 Kansas producers. That survey showed that many recommended management practices were not being utilized.

Procedure

Another survey was conducted during Sept. - Nov. 1982. This survey, like the previous one, was conducted by the Beef Science class at Kansas State University. While not conducted according to standardized statistical methods, the survey has proven a valuable educational experience for the students, and we think the results represent a cross section of the management practices and attitudes within the Kansas cattle industry.

Results

Questions which appeared on both surveys are detailed in Table 25.1. Space does not allow duplication of the entire survey results but additional information can be obtained by contacting the author.

Table 25.1. Survey Results from Kansas Cow-Calf Producers

Question	1977-78 Survey	1982 Survey
No. surveyed	350	227
No. cows/producer	126	129
Cow breed:		
Angus	16.9%	23.1%
Hereford	33.5%	25.3%
Crossbred	18.6%	24.9%
Bull breed:		
Angus	19.1	23.1
Hereford	35.2	25.6
Simmental	6.5	13.7
Length breeding season:	134	110
Semen test bulls:		
Yes	43%	45%
Pregnancy check cows:		
Yes	50%	52%
Do you worm:		
Yes	40%	63%
Do you use fly control ear tags:		
Yes	---	68% < 69% 1 tag 31% 2 tags
Do you fly control tag:		
Cow	---	19%
Calf	---	24%
Both	---	57%
Do you implant:		
Yes	25%	58%
Which implant is used:		
Ralgro	56%	95%
Do you re-implant:		
Yes	---	43%
Price considered desirable for calves/cwt.	\$47.25	\$65.00