

Kansas Agricultural Experiment Station Research Reports

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

Article 1046

1985

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Recommended Citation

Laudert, S.; Corah, L.; Nelson, R.; and Sauerwein, C. (1985) "Implant comparisons for grazing yearling steers," *Kansas Agricultural Experiment Station Research Reports*: Vol. 0: Iss. 1. <https://doi.org/10.4148/2378-5977.2449>

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Implant comparisons for grazing yearling steers

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Implant Comparisons for Grazing Yearling Steers¹

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Summary

Three field trials were conducted with grazing yearling steers to compare Compudose® and Ralgro® implants. Compudose®-implanted steers gained faster ($P < .05$) than controls. Ralgro® improved daily gain by 3.8%. No significant difference was found between implants.

Introduction

Many stocker operators running yearling steers in summer grazing programs are using implants to increase daily gains. As new implants become available, producers need to know how the new implants compare with those currently being used. These trials were conducted to compare Compudose® and Ralgro® implants with grazing yearling steers.

Experimental Procedures

Three field trials were conducted to compare Compudose and Ralgro® implants in grazing yearling steers. In each trial, steers were allotted randomly to three treatment groups: Control (no implant); Compudose; or Ralgro®. All steers were individually identified and weighed at the beginning and end of the grazing period. Implants were administered at the beginning of each trial according to the manufacturer's recommendations. The studies used 109 steers averaging 656 lb in trial 1, 109 steers averaging 537 lb in trial 2, and 128 steers averaging 590 lb in trial 3. Trial 1 began May 24, 1984, and was completed 109 days later; trial 2 began April 9, 1984, and lasted 150 days; trial 3 began April 17, 1984, and was completed 140 days later. Data from each trial were analyzed separately and pooled for combined analysis by Least Squares Procedures to remove effects of variation in initial weight.

¹Appreciation is expressed to Wiley McFarland, Cimarron, KS; Gary Aldridge, Ashland, KS; and Jack and Allen Grothusen, Ellsworth, KS for supplying cattle and facilities, and to International Minerals and Chemical Corp. and Elanco Products Company for trial support.

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Results

Based on the combined results of the three trials, Compudose® and Ralgro® increased daily gain 6.9% and 3.8%, respectively, over controls. Compudose®-implanted steers gained faster ($P<.05$) than the control steers, but not significantly different from the Ralgro®-implanted steers.

Table 4.1. Comparison of Compudose and Ralgro Implants for Grazing Yearling Steers

Item	Implant Treatment		
	Control	Compudose®	Ralgro®
<u>Trial 1 - 109 Days</u>			
No. of Steers	37	35	37
Final Wt., lb	809	815	812
Daily Gain, lb	1.41	1.46	1.43
<u>Trial 2 - 150 Days</u>			
No. of Steers	38	37	34
Final Wt., lb	739	752	742
Daily Gain, lb	1.35	1.43	1.37
<u>Trial 3 - 140 Days</u>			
No. of Steers	19	54	55
Final Wt., lb	871	905	899
Daily Gain, lb	2.01 ^a	2.25 ^b	2.21 ^b
<u>3 Trials Combined</u>			
No. of Steers	94	126	126
Daily Gain, lb	1.60 ^a	1.71 ^b	1.66 ^{ab}

^{ab} Values within the same row with different superscripts are significantly different ($P<.05$).