

Kansas Agricultural Experiment Station Research Reports

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

Article 1141

1983

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Recommended Citation

Laudert, S.; Eder, J.; and Kuhl, Gerry L. (1983) "Compudose® implant vs a Ralgro® plus Synovex-S® reimplant program for finishing steers," *Kansas Agricultural Experiment Station Research Reports*: Vol. 0: Iss. 1. <https://doi.org/10.4148/2378-5977.2544>

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Compudose® Implant vs a Ralgro® plus Synovex-S® Reimplant Program for Finishing Steers¹

Scott Laudert,² Joe Eder³ and Gerry Kuhl

Summary

Compudose implanted feedlot steers performed similarly to steers initially implanted with Ralgro and reimplanted with Synovex-S. Steers lost 2.9% of the Compudose implants.

Introduction

There is little research comparing Compudose with other implants used in feedlot cattle. This trial was conducted to compare Compudose with a Ralgro + Synovex-S reimplanting program in a commercial feedlot.

Experimental Procedure

Three hundred and forty-three Brahman-cross steers averaging about 700 lb each were randomly assigned to two treatment groups: a Compudose implant at processing, or a Ralgro implant at processing plus Synovex-S midway through the feeding period. Steers were randomly allotted to the two treatments in 10 head groups as they were processed, dipped and moved to a holding pen. From the holding pen, five or six steers of each 10 head group were individually weighed. Then pen weights were taken on each treatment group. The two treatment groups were fed in adjoining pens and handled similarly throughout the 132 day feeding period. The steers in the Ralgro + Synovex-S group were reimplanted on day 55. Both treatment groups were weighed at reimplanting time but the Compudose cattle were not run through the processing chute. All cattle were slaughtered on the same day. Final weights on the individually weighed steers were calculated using hot carcass weights and the average dressing percentage of their treatment group. Loss of Compudose implants was determined at slaughter.

¹Appreciation is expressed to Don and Mark Smith, Smith Cattle, Inc., Tribune, KS for supplying cattle and facilities, Elanco Products Company, International Minerals and Chemical Corporation and Syntex Agri-Business, Inc. for implants and Iowa Beef Processors, Holcomb, KS for slaughter assistance.

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Results

Weight gain and carcass data of the individually weighed steers are reported in Table 34.1. No significant differences ($P>.05$) were detected between the two treatment groups for weight gain, carcass quality or yield grade.

Group performance is shown in Table 34.2. The Ralgro+Synovex-S reimplanted steers gained 10 lbs more than the Compudose implanted steers, on only slightly more feed and with no difference in feed efficiency. Compudose implant loss was 2.9%. No unusual bulling problems were encountered in either treatment.

Table 34.1. Effect of Implants on Gain and Carcass Responses of Individually Weighed Steers.

	No. Steers	Final Weight lb.	Carcass Weight lb.	Total Gain lb.	Daily Gain lb.	Quality Grade ^a	Yield Grade
Compudose	89	1172	737	469	3.55	10.3	2.4
Ralgro+Synovex-S reimplant	90	1183	748	479	3.63	10.7	2.3

¹Good = 10, Good + = 11

Table 34.2. Pen Performance of Steers Implanted with Compudose or Ralgro+Synovex-S

Treatment	No. steers	Initial weight lb.	Final weight lb.	Total gain lb.	Daily gain lb.	Feed intake ¹ lb.	Feed gain	Dressing percent
Compudose	172	699	1173	474	3.59	24.8	6.89	62.9
Ralgro+Synovex- reimplant	171	701	1185	484	3.67	25.1	6.85	63.2

¹Dry matter basis