Kansas Agricultural Experiment Station Research Reports

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

Article 1299

1977

Effect of Monensin on performance of finishing steers

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Summary

We used 72 Hereford and Hereford x Angus cross yearling steers to further evaluate 200 mg monensin (trade name RUMENSIN) per head daily. Monensin improved gain 6.7% and significantly improved efficiency, 12.3%.

Introduction

Monensin has been cleared for use by cattle feeders for 15 months. It is estimated that 65-80% of Kansas cattle feeders are using it in their rations. In two growing-heifer trials and two finishing-steer trials reported last year, daily gain was increased up to 7.5% and efficiency improved as much as 12.2% with monensin.

Procedure

To substantiate previous results, we assigned 72 yearling steers at random to 12 groups of six steers each, and fed six pens control rations and six the same ration plus a premix that provided 200 mg. monensin daily per steer. Composition of the complete ration is shown in Table 25.1.

Results

Steer performance data are summarized in Table 25.2. Feeding 200 mg. monensin improved daily gain 6.7%, reduced feed intake 7.1%, and improved efficiency 12.3%. These results are consistent with previous results and further support the recommendation that Kansas cattle feeders seriously consider using this new feed additive in their feeding programs.

Table 25.1. Composition of ration used in monensin tests.

Ingredient	% Dry matter basis
Haylage or silage	15
Rolled corn	77
Protein supplement	4
Premix[1]	4

[1]Premix was rolled milo. Monensin was incorporated into the premix to provide 200 mg. per steer per day for the treated steers.

Table 25.2. Effect of monensin on performance and carcass characteristics of finishing steers.

Item	Control	200 mg. monensin
No. steers	36	36
Initial wt., lbs.	643.2	642.5
Final wt., lbs.	1001.9	1021.5
Gain, lbs.	358.6	379.0
Daily gain, lbs.	2.58	2.73
Daily dry matter, lbs.	20.63	19.17
Efficiency	8.00	7.02
Carcass traits:		
Backfat, in.	0.52	.55
Loin eye area, sq. in.	11.82	11.83
USDA grade	Low choice	Low choice
Yield grade	2.83	2.83