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Dust Bags for Fly Control under Range Conditions

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Cattlemen have traditionally used various methods to control horn flies and, more recently, face flies. Many methods used require various amounts of labor and handling of cattle. Most recent efforts have stressed minimum labor. Dust bags that cattle rub to disperse insecticide is such a method. A study of the dust bag method of fly control is reported here.

Method and Procedure

Four approximately 300-acre adjacent pastures with about 30 Polled Hereford cows and calves, and yearling heifers each were used. Calves were born in March and April and weaned in late October. Half the pastures had dust bags near the water area under shade where cattle had loafed in previous years. No fly control was used in the other pastures. The cattle were weighed each month.

Results and Discussion

Weight gains did not differ significantly. Average gain by cows in pastures with dust bags was a nonsignificant 6 lbs. more, but their calves were one pound lighter than those in pastures with no fly control. Differences in percentages of animals treated for pinkeye were not significant.

Flies were not adequately controlled by dust bags in these pastures. Cows did not use them often enough to control flies.

Other fly control trials will be studied and reported.

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