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Soybean Meal and Starea (R) Blocks Compared by Wintering
Cows on Bluestem Pasture: Effects on Birth and Weaning
Weights of Calves

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Summary

Similar gains and adjusted weaning weights can be expected from calves whose dams are wintered on soybean meal or Starea portein blocks. Rebreeding time is expected to be similar for both groups of dams.

Introduction

During the winter of 1972-73, 52 pregnant beef cows (Hereford and Angus) from 3 to 14 years old (average 5 years) were divided into two groups to compare soybean meal and Starea blocks during gestation (KAES Bulletin 568, 1972, p. 15). Summarized here are data collected on the growth performance of calves and the time cows rebred the next spring and summer.

Methods

Estimates of adjusted 205-day weaning weights and rate of gain by calves were obtained from calf weights at weaning. Breeding dates were calculated from palpation estimates during September.

Results

Average daily gains and adjusted weaning weights (steer equivalent) were similar for both groups (table 7.1). The average rebreeding date was the same for cows fed soybean meal or Starea.

Table 7.1. Rebreeding Dates of Cows and Performance of Calves Born to Cows Receiving Soybean Meal or Starea Blocks During Gestation

Item	Soybean meal block	Starea block
Calf weaning wt., lb.	500 (401-644) ^a	528 (436-627)
Calf daily gain, lb.	2.23 (1.66-3.19)	2.34 (1.98-2.81)
Rebreeding day of year	157.6 (June 6)	157.1 (June 6)

^aAverage (range).