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Results of Kansas Demonstrations on  
Implanting Suckling Calves and Yearlings

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Summary

To encourage greater use of implants in beef cattle industry in Kansas, 62 implant demonstrations were conducted in 31 different counties in Kansas. 1,402 implanted suckling calves gained an average of 15.1 pounds more than 694 non-implanted calves. In 19 yearling trials, 616 implanted yearling steers and heifers gained 20.0 pounds more than 365 yearlings.

The results suggest utilizing implants as a regular management practice for suckling steer calves and yearling steers and heifers.

Introduction

Research at Kansas State University and other Universities has shown that implanting both suckling calves and yearling steers and heifers on summer grass is an excellent management practice. Research results have shown that implanting suckling steer and heifer calves with either DES or Ralgro usually improves weaning weights by 15 to 20 pounds. Likewise, implanting yearling cattle with either Synovex S or H, DES, or Ralgro improves summer gains on grass by 15 to 30 pounds.

Despite those research results, the percentage of implanted suckling calves and yearling cattle on growing programs in Kansas are still very low. To get further information on implanting, as well as to demonstrate the use of implants, a series of demonstrations were set up in all the Extension districts of Kansas.

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Southwest District: John Robertson, Comanche

South-central District: Kent Springer, Saline; Milton Krainbill, Lincoln; Virgil Carlson, Ellsworth; Ben McCully, Harper; Steve Westfahl, Sedgwick

Northeast District: Jim Adams, Atchison; Darrel Hosie, Cloud; Julian Toney, Douglas

Southeast District: Glenn Gottlob, Crawford, Ted Wary, Cherokee; Mike Holder, Chase; Duane Jeffrey, Chautauqua; Tom Maxwell, Allen; Bob Bozworth, Franklin; Dan Shively, Labette; Dale Ladd, Morris

### Demonstration Procedure

County Agents and Area Livestock Specialists in all areas of Kansas worked with cooperating livestock producers to set up 43 demonstrations on implanting suckling calves, and 19 demonstrations in four districts implanting yearling cattle primarily on summer grass. In most of the demonstrations conducted, Ralgro implants were used, but in some of the demonstrations, the cattle were allotted so that some were implanted with Ralgro and some with DES. Since the response to both DES and Ralgro was similar the data is not segregated by implant type. Likewise, results from steers and heifers were similar so sex is ignored.

Weights were recorded directly off pasture when the trials started and ended.

### Results and Discussion

In the 43 trials conducted in 23 counties, 1,402 calves were implanted with 694 calves serving as a control. Average increase in weaning weight of the 1,402 calves was 15.1 pounds, very typical of previous research results. Considerable variation in response occurred from ranch to ranch.

The 616 implanted yearling steers and heifers were compared to 365 control calves. The average implant response was 20.0 pounds which again was very consistent with previous research.

Table 9.1. Demonstration results from implanting suckling calves.

Area of state	No. trials	No. counties	No. implanted calves	No. control calves	Average response to implants, lbs.
Southeast	15	6	323	253	+11.3
South-central	2	2	35	18	+14.9
Northeast	9	3	180	129	+14.0
Southwest	1	1	110	12	+31.0
Northwest	16	11	754	282	+14.7
Total	43	23	1,402	694	+15.1

Table 9.2. Demonstration results from implanting yearling steers and heifers.

Area of state	No. trials	No. counties	No. implanted calves	No. control calves	Average response to implants, lbs.
South-central	5	4	136	76	+30.2
Northeast	5	3	192	97	+19.7
Northwest	4	3	161	67	+15.3
Southeast	5	4	127	125	+15.5
Total	19	14	616	365	+20.0