

Results and Discussion

Daily gains were not improved by adding extra energy feed during the last 18 days of the receiving period. This is somewhat surprising because it is usually presumed that cattle respond in gain to extra energy (Table 2).

Since most of the sick cattle (95 percent) were detected as sick at first processing, this problem could not be attributed to nutritional treatment. The cattle responded well to the treatment procedures listed in OSU-RP-9104. The poor response of calves to extra energy added to a grass hay diet was similar to responses in other reports.

Effect of Lasalocid on Weight Gains of Stocker Steers

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Story in Brief

Seventy-one yearling steers (399 lb) were fed 2 pounds per day of a 10 percent protein pellet containing 0 or 50 mg of lasalocid per pound. Cattle were grazed on native pasture for the grazing season. Daily gain was greater for steers fed lasalocid (2.17 vs 2.34 lb) for a 7.8 percent response from the drug. No coccidiosis problems were observed in this trial.

Introduction

Lasalocid is a polyether ionophore antibiotic related to monensin which may help control coccidiosis and acidosis in cattle. In previous tests with stocker cattle at this station, benefits to coccidiostats have been observed in some studies (Rust et al., 1981). In feedlot cattle, lasalocid appears to improve efficiency while not depressing feed intake to the extent observed with monensin (Davis, 1978). Little information is available on dose level for this drug. The level selected for this test should be adequate for coccidia control with lightweight cattle.

Experimental Procedures

Seventy-one 399-pound yearling steers were assembled at the Oklahoma City market and shipped to Pawhuska in April, 1981. Processing procedures were as outlined in OSU Extension Fact Sheets 9102, 9103 and 9104. The cattle were placed in eight drylot pens for about a week before being assigned to one of two

pasture groups. Four lots were assigned as controls and four lots as the lasalocid group. Cattle received 2 pounds per day of a 10 percent protein pellet (Table 1).

Table 1. Composition of experimental supplement

Ingredient	Percent
Soybean meal	5.00
Salt	3.00
Ground milo	47.00
Dicalcium phosphate	1.50
Vitamin A-30000/G	0.10
Ground corn	43.40
Lasalocid premix	(a)

(a) control = none; treatment = 50 milligrams per lb.

The cattle were rotated among pastures to remove pasture effects. The cattle were pastured for 97 days and weighed following a 12-hour period without feed or water.

Results and Discussion

Lasalocid increased weight gains of these lightweight yearlings by 7.8 percent. These differences in weight gain (Table 2) were significant ($P < .05$).

Table 2. Pasture weight gain

Treatment	Control	Lasalocid
Days	97	97
Number of steers	35	36
Initial weight, lb	401	397
Final weight, lb	608	628
Average gain, lb	211	227
Average daily gain, lb	2.17	2.34

All of the cattle in this experiment were in good health when allocated to treatment, and no differences in sickness were observed. No signs of coccidiosis were seen in any of the animals. The response to lasalocid, 7.8 percent, is similar to that reported with monensin on similar cattle. All animals consumed their feed containing lasalocid readily from the start of the trial. The lack of feed rejection with 50 milligrams of lasalocid per pound is encouraging.

Literature Cited

- Rust, S. et al. 1981. OSU-MP-108:168-169,
Davis, G. 1978, Report of Progress 327. Kansas Agricultural
Experiment Station.