

Grain for Steer on Good Spring Pasture

A 66-day grazing period in the spring of 1959 showed little benefit from grain to steers on grass. Steers which received 4 pounds daily of equal parts ground barley and oats gained 3.06 pounds per day, while unsupplemented grass produced 2.95 pounds gain per day. The trial was repeated in 1960, using 4 pounds daily of ground barley as the supplement. Daily gains for 73 days of grazing in 1960 were 2.73 pounds with grain and 2.17 pounds without grain. In an effort to determine if this large increase in gain from grain on pasture would hold during dry-lot finishing, the two lots of steers were placed in dry lot and fed the same ration after July 14. Results of the trial are presented in Table 12.

Table 12. Grain on Grass for Yearling Steers, Followed by Dry Lot Finishing		
	4 Lb. Grain on Grass	Grass Only
No. Steers	6	6
Wt. on Grass, May 2	478	477
Wt. off Grass, July 14	677	635
Av. Daily Gain	2.73	2.17
Cost of 100 Lbs. Additional Gain with Grain	\$11.05	
Final Wt., Dec. 15	952	927

Daily Dry Lot Gain	1.79	1.89
Daily Dry Lot Ration:		
Corn Silage	41	41
Ground Barley	4.0	3.9
Alfalfa Hay	1.9	1.9
Soybean Meal	1.5	1.5
Bonemeal & Salt, 3:1	.2	.2
Feed Per 100 Lb. Gain:		
Corn Silage	2306	2149
Ground Barley	222	205
Alfalfa Hay	105	99
Soybean Meal	83	77
Bonemeal & Salt, 3:1	11	10
Feed Cost/100 Lb. Gain:	\$16.58	\$15.41

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