

THE VALUE OF COMPUDOSE IMPLANTS IN STEER CALVES FED OVER WINTER

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Growth promotant implants are widely used in growing and finishing cattle, and according to various authorities, result in increases in rate of gain of 7-18% and feed efficiency of 6-10%.

Compudose^(R), a relatively new growth promotant developed by Elanco Products Division of Eli Lilly and Company, has been designed to give sustained release of the naturally occurring estrogen, Estrodiol -17B for periods up to 400 days. This offers the advantage of one implant lasting from weaning to slaughter.

This trial was superimposed on the Rumensin vs. Bovatec trial previously reported. In this trial 27 steers were selected at random to receive the Compudose implant. On Day One of the trial, these steers were implanted subcutaneously with Compudose -200^(R) in the posterior median surface of the right ear by inserting the implant needle approximately 1½ inches under the skin and withdrawing the needle as the implant was being deposited. The implants contained 24 mg of Estrodiol -17B.

All steers were self fed a complete mixed ration of approximately 50% barley and 50% roughage for 109 days. Individual weights were taken on the first day and every 28 days thereafter. Two weights spaced by 24 hours were averaged to get the final weight at the close of the trial. Steers were sold at auction at the end of the trial for an average selling price of \$61.70/Cwt. While the implants were donated by Elanco Products Division of Eli Lilly and Company, they would normally sell for about \$2.40 per implant. The implanting was done during regular processing and handling of steers.

Table 1 shows the results of this trial.

Discussion:

The implantation of Compudose^(R) was a simple procedure and was performed during the initial processing of the cattle. The extra time required to perform this operation would not likely average over one minute per steer handled.

This trial was terminated after only 109 days on feed so the long term effect of the implant was not measured. There was no unusual side effects noted when the implant was used.

In summary, based on results of this trial, a livestock producer cannot afford to overlook the value of implanting his calves. Our records show almost \$12.00 return per dollar invested in the Compudose^(R) implant.

Table 1. Results of Using Compudose Implants vs. No Implant in Wintering Calves

	Compudose	Control
Number Head	27	27
Initial Wt., lbs.	14,120	13,720
Avg. Wt., lbs.	523.0	508.1
Final Wt., lbs.	22,922.5	21,212.5
Avg. Wt., lbs.	851.6	785.6
Days Fed	109	109
Avg. Daily Gain, lbs.	3.01	2.55
Avg. Selling Price @ \$61.70/Cwt.	525.42	484.74
Avg. Initial Value @ \$65.00/Cwt.	<u>339.92</u>	<u>330.30</u>
Return/Steer, \$	185.50	154.44
Value of Compudose Implant, \$	31.05	
Cost of Implant, \$	<u>2.40</u>	
Net Return/Steer, \$	28.65	