

## **GTA Creep Block Study**

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In September 1992, a feeding study was started at the Dickinson Research Center to determine the intake of two "Creep Supplements" when fed to mixed breed calves pastured on native pasture in western North Dakota.

GTA provided two creep supplement types packaged in two hundred pound "tubs." One supplement contained a 14% protein high energy mix while the other contained a high protein (31%) mix.

The 14% creep was available to 39 crossbred calves grazing a 600 acre native pasture known as Pyramid Park starting on September 9, 1992 until the calves were weaned on November 5, 1992. This was a total creep period of 57 days or 2223 animal days (39X57). During this time the calves consumed 2900 pounds of the creep feed for an average daily consumption of 1.30 pounds per day. This group of calves had an average weaning weight of 585.3 pounds.

The "creep tubs" were placed inside a creep area made up of portable corral panels equipped with a gate that excluded mother cows. It was observed that the calves spent considerable time in this creep area licking and feeding the blocks. The creep enclosures were placed close to water so that the calves could stop by on their way to and from water.

The 31% creep was available to 53 crossbred calves grazing in Section 23 about six miles NW of Dickinson, N.D. The creep design was similar to the one in the Pyramid Park and was also located close to water. During the first week of October, the cows and calves in this treatment were given access to additional acreage of a harvested hay land with some small grain (oats) regrowth. Apparently this adversely affected the consumption of the creep feed, because consumption went down dramatically. However, after a couple of weeks, the calves started consuming the

creep feed again. They consumed a total of 1925 pounds of creep feed in 2809 animal days for a consumption of 0.68 pounds per day. The actual weaning weight of the calves on November 2, was 526.1 pounds, almost 70 pounds less than the calves on the 14% creep.

It is difficult to explain the difference in consumption between the two groups of calves. Did the calves in Pyramid Park eat more creep because they were heavier or were they heavier because they ate more creep? Did the change in pasture on Section 23 cause a decrease in creep consumption or was the lower consumption due to the feed ingredients used in the high protein creep?

At this point in time, we can only guess as to the cause of the differences between the two creep rotations.

### GTA Creep Block Study -- 1992

Cow No.	Calf No.	Weaning Wt.	Cow No.	Calf No.	Weaning Wt.
H027	2513	544	H003	2554	446
B0x1	27	561	An802	2518	662
B0x2	2028	478	H821	229	556
B0x3	2013	555	H915	2506	536
B0x4	28	554	B960	272	557
B0x5	2018	518	H2036	2510	640
B0x6	2001	537	H2072	230	630
B0x7	2005	614	MS3004	255	648
B0x8	5	502	MS3010	2507	700
B0x9	2038	454	B3015	2016	571

B0x10	2050	237	MS3023	281	558
B0x11	12	479	MS3032	212	695
B0x12	2033	491	B3515	239	615
B0x13	2021	432	H3536	3	603
B0x14	2008	501	H3540	284	479
B0x15	36	581	H3551	214	614
B0x16	30	475	H3558	209	572
B0x17	53	441	H4023	2523	632
B0x18	18	488	MS4024	261	680
B0x19	23	600	MS4025	282	516
B0x20	21	564	MS4026	276	670
B0x21	34	533	MS4058	2522	684
B0x22	14	551	B4537	238	608
B0x23	2024	531	H4539	204	615
B0x24	41	537	H4552	2561	438
H1077	54	392	H4559	2517	720
B1087	48	566	H4560	50	568
B2037	2014	498	H4564	2043	509
MS3022	55	546	H5x10	2509	562

MS3025	2040	479	H5x12	219	605
MS3049	56	512	B5x22	2570	490
H3563	2040	388	B5x27	279	574
MS4019	2025	597	H5x31	254	619
H4027	2520	465	H5x39	213	496
MS4039	2037	632	An5113	270	695
H4514	267	590	B6x28	256	560
SM4519	40	497	B6x31	283	610
MS5003	2029	506	H4556	2526	680
MS5013	2035	478	H5x44	2529	605
MS5017	2046	513			
MS5018	47	614			
MS5020	11	608			
MS6002	266	758			
MS6006	42	670			
B6x4	2036	557			
MS7029	2030	598			
MS7031	2004	658			
B959	25	538			
B9x1	2048	405			

B9x11	2023	585			
B9x23	2044	504			
An703	2033	491			
		27884			23218
		526.1132			595.3333

Section 23		Pyramid Park	
Date	Lbs. Creep	Date	Lbs. Creep
September 10	200	September 9	200
September 19	200	September 17	200
September 24	200	September 21	200
September 30	200	September 23	200
		September 30	200
October 2	400	October 2	400
October 7	400	October 7	350
October 23	600	October 12	400
October 30	400	October 17	400
		October 20	800

		October 28	800
Total	2600	Total	4150
Weigh Back	675	Weigh Back	1250
Pounds Eaten	1925	Pounds Eaten	2900
Animal Days	2809	Animal Days	2223
Pounds/Day	0.68	Pounds/Day	1.3

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