

**EFFECTS OF IMPLANTING NURSING STEER CALVES
WITH STILBESTROL**

Previous work at the Dickinson Experiment Station and other stations has shown a definite advantage in weight gain and feed efficiency when using stilbestrol in beef steers from weaning to market. Just what effect the use of stilbestrol would have on nursing steer calves has not been accurately determined.

A trial to determine the value of the stilbestrol implants with steer calves was initiated in June, 1967 and continued in the summers of 1968, 1969 and 1970. Half of the steer calves born at the station were implanted with 12 mg. of stilbestrol in 1967 and 1968, and 15 mg. of stilbestrol in 1969 and 1970. The calves were allotted to maintain equal age and weight between treatments (implanted or non implanted). Individual calf weights were obtained at the start of the trial in June, again in mid August and at weaning in mid October. The cows and calves were pastured on a western wheatgrass-needle and thread type native range typical to the area, with adequate water and minerals free choice. Four years results are tabulated in Table 10.

Table 10. Results Obtained by Implanting Steer Calves with Stilbestrol.

	Year	Avg. No. head	Avg. June wt.	Avg. Oct. wt.	Avg. summer gain	Days on trial	Avg. daily gain
Calves not implanted with stilbestrol	1967	27	185.9	396.9	211.0	119	1.77
	1968	23	173.7	382.2	208.5	110	1.90
	1969	21	179.8	383.6	203.8	113	1.80
	1970	20	179.5	395.5	216.0	110	1.96
	4-Yr. avg.	91	179.7	389.6	209.9	113	1.86
Calves implanted with stilbestrol	1967	27	182.2	390.2	208.0	119	1.75
	1968	23	173.7	385.7	212.2	110	1.93
	1969	19	180.0	399.7	219.7	113	1.94
	1970	23	183.9	390.7	206.8	110	1.88
	4-Yr. avg.	92	180.0	391.6	211.7	113	1.87

Summary

Based on the results from these trials, there appears to be little advantage for implanting steer calves before they reach about 7 months of age. Results with the implants at either 12 mg. or 15 mg. level show that although a small advantage might be gained, the practice has doubtful economic advantages.