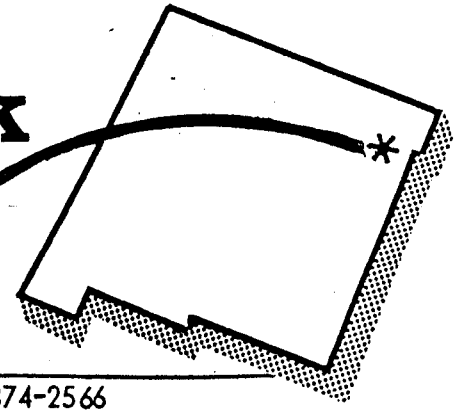




Clayton Livestock Research Center

PROGRESS REPORT



Route 1 Box 109

Clayton, New Mexico 88415

Tel. (505) 374-2566

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PREVENTIVE MEDICATION FOR STRESSED CALVES

Glen P. Lofgreen and Jeffrey K. Elliott

Two trials have recently been completed on preventive medication procedures for newly received calves. The first trial, involving 225 Florida calves and 226 native calves, compared no preventive medication with a daily injection of 1.75g of oxytetracycline (Terramycin) for 3 days and with 25g of sustained release sulfadimethoxine administered as a bolus (Albon SR) at the time of processing (day following arrival). The results during a 4 week receiving period are shown

in table 1. The two programs resulted in significant reductions in number of calves requiring treatment. No effects were observed on death loss, feed intake or weight gains. The savings in medication cost were more than offset by the cost of the preventive medications. Since, however, no chute charge was made the differences in cost may be less than shown because of the greater time required to pull and treat than to mass medicate.

Table 1. Results of experiment 1.

Item	Preventive Medication		
	None	Terra- mycin®	Albon SR®
Number of calves	185	180	186
Number requiring treatment for RDC ¹	116 ^b	100 ^a	92 ^a
Total sick days	626 ^c	470 ^b	432 ^a
Sick days prevented ₁	-	156	194
Death loss from RDC ¹	12	9	11
Daily feed intake, lb	12.24	12.48	12.16
Daily weight gain, lb	2.59	2.59	2.56
Feed per pound gain, lb	4.73	4.82	4.75
Days to regain shrink and death loss	24	22	24
Daily gain from purchase, lb	1.57	1.67	1.57
Feed per pound gain, lb	7.80	7.47	7.75
Medication costs:			
Treatment cost, \$ per head	3.76	2.86	2.57
Preventive medication, \$ per head	0	1.05	2.18
Totals	2.76	3.91	4.75

RDC = respiratory disease complex.

abc Means having different superscripts are different @ P < .05

Item	None	mycin	SR	Albon SR
Number of calves	67	65 _{bc}	66 _{ab}	65
Number requiring treatment for RDC ¹	35 ^c	28 ^{bc}	19 ^{ab}	8 ^a
Total sick days	193 ^d	129 ^c	87 ^b	35 ^a
Sick days prevented ₁	-	64	106	158
Death loss from RDC ¹	0	1	1	0
Daily feed intake, lb	11.53	11.55	11.51	11.68
Daily weight gain, lb	2.65	2.40	2.60	2.62
Feed per pound gain, lb	4.35	4.81	4.43	4.46
Days to regain shrink and death loss	13	17	15	15
Daily gain from purchase, lb	1.90	1.74	1.86	1.92
Feed per pound gain, lb	6.07	6.64	6.19	6.08
Medication costs:				
Treatment costs, \$ per head	3.00	2.10	1.39	.56
Preventive medication, \$ per head	0	1.05	2.18	3.23
Totals	3.00	3.15	3.57	3.79

¹RDC = respiratory disease complex

abcd Means having different superscripts are different @ P < .05

For additional information concerning our research program, please contact Dr. Lofgreen at the Clayton Livestock Research Center.

B. Nelson

Head, Department of Animal and Range Sciences

Agricultural Experiment Station
NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY
 Las Cruces, New Mexico 88003
 L. S. Pope, Director
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