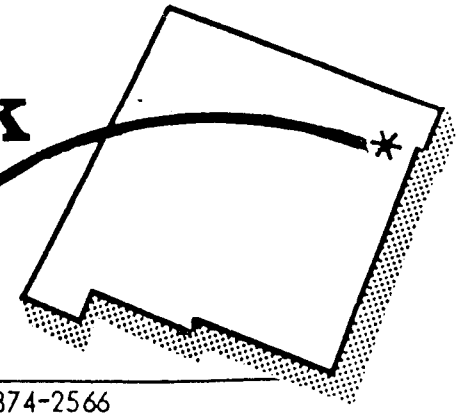




# Clayton Livestock Research Center

## PROGRESS REPORT



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Progress Report No. 8 (June, 1979)

### EFFECT OF DIPPING NEWLY RECEIVED STRESSED CALVES

Glen P. Lofgreen

Because of the number of calves being dipped and the lack of data on the amount of stress dipping places on the animal, the Clayton Livestock Research Center has compared the effects of dipping newly received calves with undipped calves.

To date, the study has involved 540 calves shipped to the Center from Florida and 200 native calves purchased from a ranch near Clayton. As the calves arrived at the Research Center, they were randomly divided into two groups. One group was dipped using GX 118, while the control group received a Warbex pour on. Some calves were processed off-truck (261 head), while those arriving

in late afternoon or at night were kept in a holding pen with hay and water and processed the following morning (443 head). After processing, both groups received the same receiving rations and records were kept of feed intake and weight gains for a four week receiving period.

A comparison of the results is shown in the table below. Although a few more calves died in the dipped group, the difference was not statistically significant. This means that the chances are only 1 in 20 that this difference represents a true effect of dipping. It is important to note that the high death loss was due to losses in one load of

#### Four Week Performance

	Control (Warbex)	Dipped (GX 118)
Number of calves	352	352
Mean purchase weight, lb	377	376
Death loss	25(19) <sup>a</sup>	31(21) <sup>a</sup>
Daily Feed intake, lb		
Milled feed	6.09	5.93
Hay	4.45	4.93
Totals	10.54	10.32
Daily weight gain, lb	1.23	1.11
Feed per pound gain, lb	8.57	9.30
Feed cost per pound gain, ¢	43.61	47.23
Partial net return, \$ per head in 28 days	9.09	7.08

<sup>a</sup> Values in brackets are the number of calves which died from one load of 111 calves received during extremely cold, windy weather and most of the calves which died merely froze to death.

cattle due to cold stress. Even in this type of weather, there was little difference in the death loss in the control and dipped groups. During the first week following arrival, 15 calves died in each group indicating that dipping had little effect upon death loss.

There was a trend toward slightly lowered feed intake and weight gains in the dipped

group resulting in a less efficient feed conversion, slightly higher feed cost per unit of gain and lower partial return. It is doubtful that these differences are consistent enough to be considered real effects of dipping. It can be concluded at this stage that dipping has no or only a slight additional effect upon newly received calves compared to undipped controls receiving a Warbex pour on.

A field day will be held on New Mexico State University's College Ranch and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Jornada Experimental Range on Wednesday, August 29, 1979. The program will consist of a tour of some of the experimental pastures to view the forage and cattle. Among the subjects to be discussed are watershed management, brush control, supplemental feeding, grazing management and crossbreeding of cattle. Registration will be near the south entrance to the Jornada Experimental Range beginning at 8:00 a.m. Coffee and doughnuts will be available. The program is scheduled to begin at 9:00 a.m. at nearby tobosa pastures. Lunch will be served at noon courtesy of Worley Mills, Clovis, New Mexico. The tour will be concluded at the College Ranch by 3:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend.



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