

References

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Abstracts

Effects of long acting and short acting oestradiol implants on growth rate and carcass weight of steers

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The effects of a number of steroid hormone treatments on growth were examined in a trial involving 204 Friesian-type steers which was carried out over an 11 month period from May to April. The animals were at pasture from May until October and were over-wintered indoors on grass silage and supplementary concentrates. Thirty-four animals were used as untreated controls, and there were four treatment groups: (1) 43 steers were implanted with pellet-type implants containing 20 mg oestradiol benzoate and 200 mg progesterone on days 1, 105 and 187; (2) 47 steers were implanted with a single silastic rubber implant containing 45 mg oestradiol-17 β ; (3) 36 steers received treatment (1) and in addition were implanted on the same days with 300 mg trenbolone acetate; (4) 44 steers received treatment (2) and were also implanted with 300 mg trenbolone acetate on days 1, 105 and 187. The mean liveweight gains (\pm sem) of the steers during the first 249 days of the trial were 201.7 kg for the controls and 236.8, 219.4, 254.4 and 247.8 (\pm 6.1) kg for the steers assigned to treatments 1, 2, 3 and 4, respectively. The corresponding values for the carcass weights (\pm sem) were 300.0 kg for the controls and 318.4, 312.0, 327.9 and 321.6 (\pm 3.5) kg for the treated groups. Although all the treatments increased the liveweight gains and carcass weights significantly compared with the controls, the responses to the silastic rubber implants were smaller owing primarily to an apparently high rate of loss of the implants. Implantation with trenbolone acetate in conjunction with oestradiol yielded a significant additional response in terms of liveweight gain and carcass weight.

Early season parasitic gastroenteritis in calves and its prevention with ivermectin

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In a two-year trial involving successive batches of 36 autumn-born steers on two adjacent sites in Hertfordshire, calves treated with ivermectin at three and eight weeks after turn out contaminated pastures much less than untreated control animals. Each year dry summers prevented the larval challenge on the control pastures from building up to high levels until about the time of autumn housing. Atypical outbreaks of parasitic gastroenteritis were recorded in May and June of the second year in both groups of control calves. Clinical and parasitological aspects of these outbreaks are discussed in the context of the epidemiology of the disease. It is concluded that the application of measures to control gastroenteritis can bring benefits in the early part of the grazing season as well as later in the year.