

# Effects of respiratory disease control using generic vs. pioneer tulathromycin in high-risk cattle on health, performance and carcass characteristics

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## Introduction

Bovine respiratory disease remains the leading cause of feedlot morbidity and mortality in North America. The objective of this study was to evaluate the effect of generic vs. pioneer tulathromycin for control of bovine respiratory disease.

## Materials and methods

This study utilized a randomized complete-block design with 14 replicates per treatment and one replicate per block (n = 28 pens; 2,451 heifers total). Across blocks, cattle were of similar age, background, health status, body weight and breed type. The average enrollment weight was 562 ± 74.9 lbs. and average days on feed for the study population was 211 days. Live growth performance, health outcomes, and carcass characteristics were analyzed across blocks using generalized linear mixed models.

## Results

No differences were observed for average weight at enrollment, dry matter intake, or feed-to-gain ratio among groups. Slight differences exist within the deads and removals in analysis among average final weights and average daily gain; however, variation is likely due to numerical differences in mortality that were not statistically significant. Overall, growth performance is estimated to be equivalent among both products. No significant differences ( $P \geq 0.05$ ) were observed for any health variable. No significant differences ( $P \geq 0.05$ ) were detected for hot carcass weight, dressing percentages, quality or yield grades.

## Significance

Performance of generic tulathromycin was deemed equivalent compared to the pioneer tulathromycin for control of respiratory disease.

