

Growth of Feedlot Heifers Increased by Implanted Hormones

Increased feed efficiency and rate of gain in feedlot heifers is possible by implanting a new growth-promoting hormone

combination, a Pennsylvania State University scientist reported July 13 during the North Atlantic Sectional Meeting of the American Society of Animal Science at Storrs, Conn.

The implant is one of several new products with growth-promoting effects, according to Clifford F. Orley of the Department of Animal Science at Penn State. The implant contains 24 milligrams of diethylstilbestrol (DES), a synthetic female hormone, and 120 milligrams of testosterone, a male hormone.

Implanting increased average

daily gain by slightly over 12 per cent in groups not receiving DES in the ration and by 5.6 per cent within DES-fed groups. Feed efficiency was increased by 2.2 per cent by feeding DES and by 4.7 per cent by implanting.

The Penn State studies concerned the use of 24 heifers in average conditions. In addition to being implanted, two groups of six heifers each were fed oral DES at the rate of 10 milligrams per head daily. One of these groups was implanted while the second group was not implanted. The implant dosage

was 0.24 cubic centimeters per animal.

The implant is administered under the skin at the base of the ear in cattle. The DES hormone has been used widely in past years to increase rate of growth.

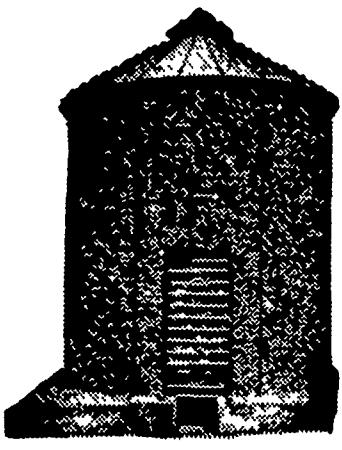
The only carcass characteristic affected significantly by treatments was loin-eye-area, which was increased by implanting.

Working with Orley on the experiments were L. L. Wilson and M. C. Rugh, all with the Department of Animal Science at Penn State.

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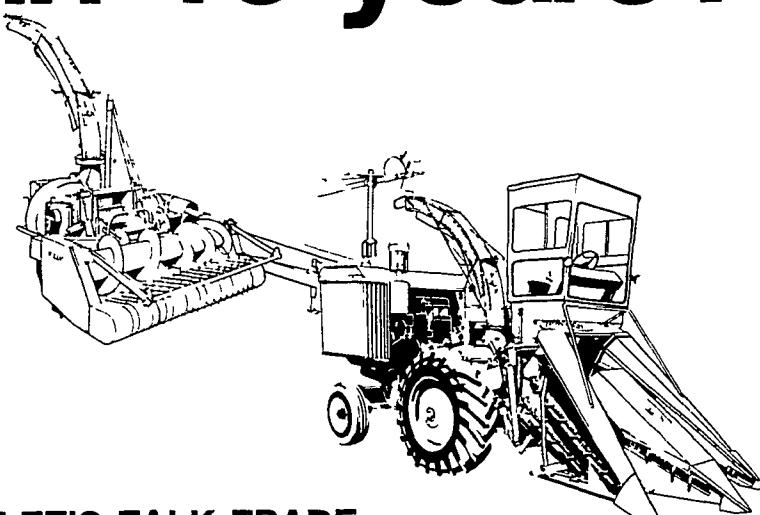


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Canada Orders EIA Test

The U. S. Department of Agriculture urges all horse owners to have their animals tested for equine infectious anemia (EIA) if they are to be moved to Canada.

Officials of USDA's Agricultural Research Service report that, after August 15, Canadian Health of Animals Division will require all horses entering Canada from the U. S. be accompanied by a report from a recognized laboratory showing negative results to the Coggins test for EIA.

This announcement comes as a result of Canada's new rules on EIA. Until August 15, horses not tested prior to export will be permitted entry pending negative results from blood samples collected at the Canadian port of entry. Positive test results will present a problem for exporters, because reactors cannot be allowed to return to the U. S.

USDA has been advised that laboratories recognized by Canadian officials for conducting the Coggins test are: Cornell University, University of Florida, University of Kentucky, Louisiana State University, Michigan State University, New Jersey State Laboratory, and the National Animal Disease Laboratory (Ames, Iowa).

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