



DR. MURRAY RUNSTEDLER DR. PAUL SOSTAR DR. ANDREW MACLEOD
DR. JOHN TOKARZ DR. KELLY HAEZLE DR. AMANDA TOPP DR. DAVE LAMB
Linwood Veterinary Services
3860 Manser Road, Linwood, ON N0B 2A0 (519) 698-2610
& Hwy 89 Veterinary Services, 7434 Hwy 89 Mount Forest, ON N0G 2L0
1-800-663-2941 Fax (519) 698-2081
linwoodvet@linwoodvet.ca

We will provide industry-leading, reliable, knowledgeable service, in a friendly, courteous and timely manner, to benefit our clients and the communities we serve.

SPRING 2014 BEEF NEWSLETTER



You Have a Choice

We've got the man and the machine to provide your cattle processing needs! The investment in cattle and the returns on the investment are at an all time high. Maybe it's time to accurately know cattle weights to assess daily gains for smart implant and feeding decisions and dosing levels.

Call 519-698-2610 and ask for Kyle.

Implant and Re-implant Strategies

Growth implants have been used in the beef industry for more than a quarter century to improve the rate of gain and feed efficiency in beef cattle. The use of implants results in a leaner more desirable end product for consumers while decreasing the cost of production for farmers.

So how do they work?

Implants work by complementing the hormones that cattle produce naturally. Estrogenic implants (estradiol benzoate, estradiol 17B, zeranol) increase skeletal bone and muscle growth by stimulating cell division, while androgenic decrease muscle breakdown and increase protein production which results in increased muscle mass.

What is the difference between implants and why shouldn't I always use the same one?

Implants are categorized in two ways, the active ingredient (hormone) in the implant and also the potency or level of the hormone. The two hormone classes are estrogenic and androgenic hormones, while the level of potency is categorized as high, med or low. The products that are available may be simple and contain one hormone and potency or very complex and contain both hormone categories with varying potency.

What do I need to know before I implant my cattle?

There are several things to consider when choosing the proper implant.

- Age/Sex
 - Implants are formulated differently for calves, steers and heifers
- Genetics/Breed
 - Frame size and genetics help determine which implant should be used. Smaller framed cattle will reach a finished endpoint faster than medium or large framed cattle which will require more days on feed. Larger framed cattle will need a longer implant payout window for optimum efficiency
- Nutritional program
 - Implants are only effective if the cattle are fed a high plane of nutrition that will allow them to meet energy demands for growth
- Expected days on feed/pasture
 - Implants are a very cost effective
 - way to increase growth and maximize feed efficiency, however one must consider days on feed and the payout period of the implant to obtain financial gain
- Facilities / reimplant strategy
 - Payout period varies by implant and reimplanting cattle should occur within the payout window of the first implant
 - Multiple Implants – if you are planning on using a multi implant program start with a low potency implant and use a higher potency implant on each subsequent implant.
 - TBA (trenbolone acetate) implants offer best economic returns in the finishing stages when the cattle are less efficient in their growth.

Implant Program Examples

If you are planning to feed cattle a ration that has a lower level of energy then you require a less intensive implant program. An example of this program would be as follows for calves starting at 550 lbs and raising them to finish.

1st Implant -Compudose lasting 180 days/6 months

2nd Implant -Synovex S lasting 90 days/3 months

3rd Implant -Synovex S lasting 90 days/3 months

Another example would be stockers fed more aggressively to make larger gains, this program starts with a higher cost but has a much higher pay back if implemented correctly. Used in calves 550 lbs to finish.

1st Implant -Revalor G 90-120 days

2nd Implant - Revalor S 90-120 days

3rd Implant -Revalor 200 90-120days

Summary

Growth implants allow the producer help to control input cost by increasing growth rates by 5-20% while increasing feed conversion by 5-10%. The return on investment of implants when used properly ranges from \$5 to \$9 for every dollar invested. Return depends on proper implanting technique as well as housing and nutrition costs.

If you have any questions about implant choice please feel free to call the clinic. Kyle is also available for processing and implanting, please call the clinic to book Kyle for your processing needs.

We have an excellent supply of Synovex H and Synovex S currently in stock. These products were hard to come by. For those of you who have used this product in the past, it is available now but ongoing supply is uncertain.

Controlling External Parasites

Do your cattle seem to have excessive hair loss and skin irritation in the spring? External parasites like mites and lice can be problematic year round. These parasites increase in number during the fall and winter months when cattle have thicker coats of hair and are often housed more densely. Lice can feed by either biting cattle or sucking blood. They cause irritation to the skin, itching, and often make animals appear unthrifty. Mites tend to burrow into the hide and can lead to loss of hair and patches of thickened skin. If infestations are severe enough, they may also weaken an animal's immune system and make it more susceptible to contacting other diseases. Control of both these parasites is most important in the fall and spring as populations are on the increase. When treating cattle for lice and/or mange, be sure to use approved products. Ivomec and Alverin do not require retreatment unless cattle show signs of external parasites. A physical exam & scraping can be done to confirm reinfection. It is important to keep in mind that animals require a second treatment application if Delice or Vetolice were used as unhatched eggs may not be controlled by these treatments. A repeat treatment in 3 weeks is required to prevent parasites from re-establishing infection among your cattle if these products are used. A common mistake producers make when treating for parasites is to guess the weight of the animals in order to estimate the amount of product required. This typically results in under-dosing. Accurately knowing the weight of your cattle will be economically rewarding for accurate dosing and proper drug use.

In the summer, the biggest problem with external parasites is fly control. Horn flies, face flies and stable flies can be irritating to animals and interrupt feeding. Horn flies suck blood continuously and may pierce the skin 20-30 times per day to feed. They tend to stick close to the cattle, only leaving briefly when disrupted. This is painful to animals and can cause some blood loss. Face flies appear similar to house flies and while they do not suck blood, they do tend to swarm around moist areas on the face such as the eyes, nose and lips. They can cause irritation to the surface of the eye and spread bacteria and viruses that can cause pinkeye problems in the herd. Stable flies tend to cluster around the legs and lower abdomen and also suck blood, causing substantial pain and blood loss. When designing a fly control program that best fits your herd, consider factors such as cost, convenience and grazing rotation (if applicable). Some available options for fly control include: making backrubbers available to cattle for self treatment, tagging animals with insecticide-impregnated ear tags, topical application of pour-on products and surface sprays or foggers for use in cattle barns.

How Much is that Stag or Pregnant Feedlot Heifer Costing You?

As the cost of replacement cattle is on the rise, some producers are entertaining the idea of feeding heifers. One of the problems producers encounter when feeding a group of heifers is the possibility that a proportion of animals may have been bred before purchase (3-15% of yearling heifers on average). If a heifer enters the feedlot pregnant, chances are slim that a profit will be recognized by feeding her out. Why is a pregnant heifer a problem? The cattle feeder will incur economic losses due to higher death losses at calving, additional treatment costs, additional labour costs to deal with calvings and reduced carcass value. Studies have been done comparing performance and carcass characteristics of open heifers, pregnant heifers and heifers that were pregnant and aborted following injection after arriving at the feedlot. In one finishing trial, it was determined that when all factors were

considered, an open heifer brings roughly \$70/head more than a pregnant heifer and \$40/head more than a heifer that was aborted after entering a feedlot. In another trial, there was a \$115/head advantage for feeding an open heifer versus a pregnant heifer. From these studies, it is obvious the best case scenario is to feed heifers that have never been pregnant (guaranteed open). The next best scenario economically is to feed heifers that have been aborted. Some producers choose to have all incoming heifers pregnancy-checked and any pregnant animals aborted by injection with a prostaglandin product and dexamethasone. Any animals that are detected pregnant can be sorted and carefully watched to ensure they abort. No product will abort 100% of all pregnant animals, so there may be a small number of pregnant animals to manage or sell. Another option is to simply needle all heifers on arrival at the time of processing. This will abort a large percentage of pregnant animals and reduce labour associated with pregnancy checking.

The term “stag” refers to a male/bull that has been castrated at or after reaching sexual maturity. In contrast, a “steer” refers to a male/bull that has been castrated BEFORE reaching sexual maturity. Castration can be performed by surgical or non-surgical methods and is typically performed due to preference of consumers and for economic considerations (improves marbling and tenderness of the beef when finished). It also serves to improve the temperament of the animals. Castration should be performed early when calves are small and sexually immature to minimize stress and pain associated with the procedure. Studies have shown that calves castrated at the time of arrival at feedlots can have more than twice the morbidity (sickness) rate and almost twice the mortality (death) of steers that were castrated earlier in life. Smaller animals will bleed less, have fewer setbacks and typically experience fewer issues with infection. Castration is a very important economic management practice for cow-calf producers and this is reflected in the prices paid for bulls in comparison to steers. Bull calves can sell for as much as \$10 per hundredweight less than steers of comparable quality and weight. On a bull calf weighing 500 lbs, this can result in a price reduction of \$40-\$50/head!

