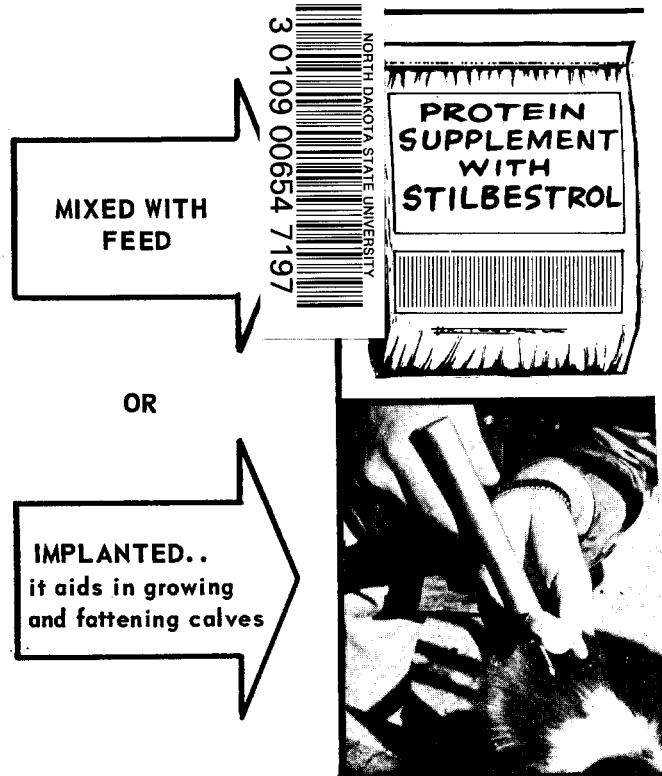


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Stilbestrol



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COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE
NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY
FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA 58102

STILBESTROL

- Stilbestrol is a synthetically produced hormone-like substance that can be implanted under the skin of the ear or included with cattle feed supplements to stimulate live weight gains.
- Stilbestrol can boost cattle gains about 12 to 15 per cent per head per day and increase feed efficiency by about 10 per cent.
- An estimated 80 per cent or more of all cattle finished for market are fed or have been implanted with stilbestrol.
- Two ways to provide stilbestrol for cattle are:
 - (a) Orally - stilbestrol is mixed at the 10 mg. level with a protein supplement by a licensed feed manufacturer.
 - (b) Stilbestrol implants for livestock are either 12 or 15 mg. pellets. Implants are sold by veterinarians and other livestock suppliers.

STILBESTROL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FEEDLOT CATTLE

Steers	Oral	Implant
		(12 or 15 mg. stilbestrol pellets)
Under 500#	5 mg. daily to start 10 mg. daily thereafter	1 pellet for 100-150 days 2 or 3 pellets for reimplanting*
Above 500#	10 mg. daily	2 or 3 pellets 2 or 3 pellets for reimplanting*
*Reimplant is of questionable economy if cattle are sold under 175 days.		
Heifers		
Under 500#	5 mg. daily to start 10 mg. daily thereafter	1 pellet initially, then 2 pellets reimplant after 100-150 days*
500-700#	10 mg. daily	2 pellets

*Reimplant is of questionable economy if cattle are sold under 175 days.

Administration of stilbestrol in the feed is less likely to cause possible side-effects, such as prolapse, than is implanting, and should therefore perhaps be given preference for heifers.

WARNING

- Food and Drug Administration requires that stilbestrol be removed from feed 48 hours prior to slaughter.
- Food and Drug Administration requires that any implants be in the ear.

STILBESTROL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PASTURE CATTLE

Steers - Calves - Implant 1 pellet
Yearlings - Implant 2 pellets

Heifers - Not more than one pellet

Heifers for Breeding - Do not implant or feed stilbestrol to breeding cattle.

STILBESTROL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SUCKLING CALVES

Suckling Calves

At least 75 days of age and at least 125 lbs. in weight.	1 pellet for steer calves Not recommended for heifer calves.
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Several studies have indicated implanting suckling calves gives an extra 10 to 20 pounds weight at weaning time. There is disagreement, however, between trials and researchers as to whether DES implantation into suckling calves affects later gains in the feedlot. It seems best to make certain feedlot animals receive DES, either in their feed or implanted in the ear. This will avoid any apparent depression of feedlot gains in calves which were implanted while nursing.

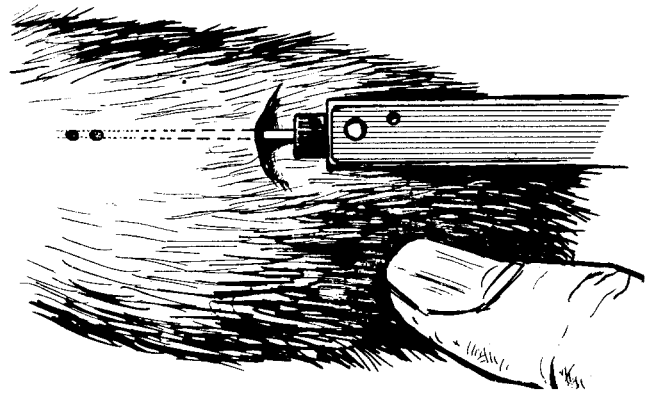
COST

Stilbestrol added to the protein supplement at the level of 10 mg. per head per day costs about \$.004 or 50¢ for 125 days.

Stilbestrol implants cost about 10 to 15 cents each. This does not include the cost of the implanter or the labor involved.

For a cost of \$1 for stilbestrol the returns are about \$10 in added gain and feed efficiency.

HOW TO IMPLANT STILBESTROL



Use an implanting gun. Insert the point of the needle under the skin near the base of the ear of either pasture or feedlot cattle. Implanting is like inserting a needle between two pieces of cloth. Insert the needle full length then pull back about ¼ inch to allow space for the pellet. Do not go into the cartilage of the ear. Inject the pellets gently; keep the plunger extended while removing the needle. Remember, implants must be in the ear only. The ears go with the hide when cattle are slaughtered.

ADVANTAGES OF FEEDING METHOD:

1. Saves time, labor and equipment.
2. Protein supplements are usually needed in the ration anyway.
3. Stilbestrol can be withdrawn from the ration at any time.
4. With heifers there seem to be less side effects when stilbestrol is fed.

ADVANTAGES OF IMPLANT METHOD:

1. Cattle in the same lot can be selectively implanted.
2. Same protein supplement can be fed to breeding cattle and other livestock.
3. Feedlot cattle not needing additional protein can receive stilbestrol.
4. Pasture cattle can derive stilbestrol benefits.

CAUTIONS:

1. Keep breeding hogs away from stilbestrol feed.
2. Don't crush pellets during implanting.
3. Side effects in certain instances result in vaginal prolapse in heifers.
4. Don't feed stilbestrol to dairy cows, breeding sheep or chickens.
5. Remove stilbestrol feed from cattle 48 hours prior to slaughter.