

DELAY IMPLANT, INCREASE BEEF QUALITY

Profit Tip

Many feeders administer growth implants on the front end of the finishing phase, keeping far from the harvest date so as not to hinder marbling development. But research at South Dakota State University in the mid-1990s proved marbling is a consistent component that can develop throughout an animal's life. Therefore, early management decisions affect marbling development, both ongoing and later. Using a delayed implant strategy leads to the same percentage of cattle grading Choice as non-implanted cattle—but with added weight and efficiency.

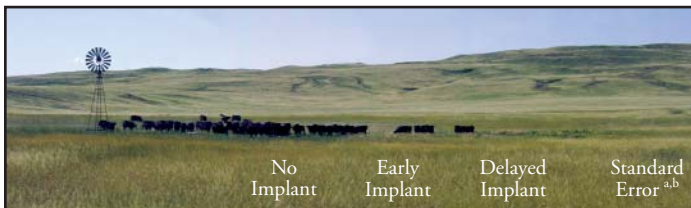
When delayed, implanting can result in Quality Grade distributions similar to non-implanted cattle.

The Facts

- Delayed implanting resulted in a 5.5% increase in average daily gain (ADG) over non-implanted steers—similar to cattle receiving an implant at the start of finishing.
- Implants improved feed efficiency by 5.5%.
- Implanting resulted in an increased carcass weight of 28 pounds (lb.) over non-implanted steers.
- Delayed implanting resulted in a 15% increase in cattle reaching the premium level of average Choice or higher. Using a \$5/cwt. premium for upper 2/3 Choice results in a \$5.78/head premium over calves in the early implant pen.

	No Implant	Early	Delayed
Cost of gain \$/cwt.	39.63	37.65	37.30
Breakeven \$/cwt.	94.18	91.21	90.65

Carcass characteristics at final harvest



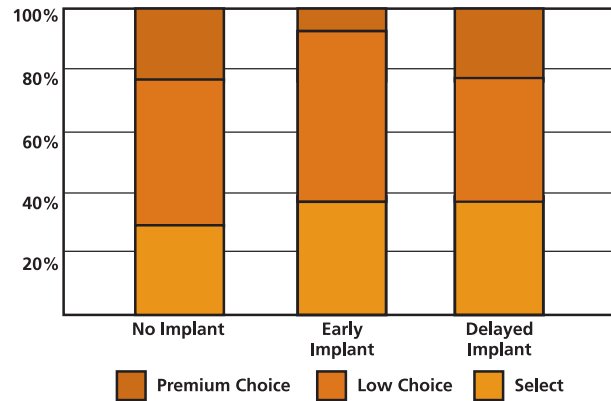
	No Implant	Early Implant	Delayed Implant	Standard Error ^{a,b}
Hot carcass weight, lb.	752 ^a	776 ^b	780 ^b	8.4
Dressing %	60.9 ^a	61.6 ^b	61.7 ^b	0.22
Ribeye area, sq. in.	11.9 ^a	12.5 ^b	12.8 ^b	0.15
Ribfat, in.	0.53	0.51	0.49	0.02
KPH, %	2.2	2.2	2.1	0.10
Yield Grade	3.3 ^a	3.2 ^{ab}	3.0 ^b	0.08
Maturity Score	151 ^a	161 ^b	156 ^b	1.8
Marbling Score	565 ^a	520 ^b	536 ^{ab}	11.3

^{a,b}Means differ (P<0.05).

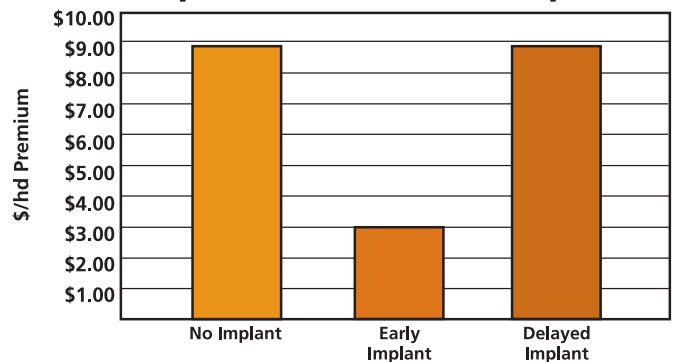
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Data: South Dakota State University Nutrition Unit

Quality Grade Distribution Across Implant Treatment



Upper 2/3 Choice premiums earned per head for the entire pen



Materials & Methods

- 182 Angus and Angus-Limousin steer calves weighing 680 lb. were used.
- Estradiol-trenbolone acetate (Revalor[®]-S) implants were administered at the start of the finishing period at 680 lb., or delayed until 56 days on feed at 850 lb.
- Cattle were fed for 140 days, then harvested when they appeared to have 0.4 inches of external fat.
- Serial harvest took place at 680 lb., 850 lb. and at the end to plot marbling development, as determined by lipid content.
- Cost of gain was calculated using a ration cost of \$140/ton. Breakevens were calculated using \$130/cwt. calf price with 2% death loss.

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Questions?

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