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Grazing Demonstration in Western Iowa

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calves were rotated as needed. Rumensin blocks were offered free choice.

When fall arrived, the demonstration ended and the heifers were placed in a feedlot for finishing. At the beginning and end of the trials, the cattle were weighed.

Introduction

This demonstration examined rotationally grazing growing beef cattle in western Iowa.

Materials and Methods

Heifer calves (42 head) from the ISU McNay Farm, born in the fall (August/September 2015), were fed MGA in a corn grain mix daily (3.2 lb/heifer per day) while grazing a smooth brome grass and legume pasture (May to September 2016, 122 days) that totaled 48 acres and was divided into paddocks. The

Results and Discussion

The 2016 grazing season was long due to frequent rains during the entire season and a late frost. Grass grew all season and was never in short supply for the grazing cattle. The heifer calves, grazing a brome grass/legume pasture and supplemented with corn, gained 1.66 lb/day on average for the season of 122 days (Table 1).

Table 1. Performance of grazing heifers in western Iowa, 2016.

| | Grain-supplemented on grass |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Start weight, lb | 584 ± 59 |
| End weight, lb | 786 ± 72 |
| Avg. gain/heifer, lb | 202 |
| Days grazing | 122 |
| ADG ^a , lb/d | 1.66 |

^aADG = Average Daily Gain.