Introduction

Fescue is the predominant cool-season grass grown for forage in Arkansas. It is used as pasture for stocker cattle during the fall and winter, but cattle gains are usually small, averaging approximately 1 lb per animal per day. It is important that stocker cattle gains be as efficient and economical as possible. Therefore, feed additives are often used to promote growth, improve health, and reduce morbidity. Chlortetracycline (aueromycin) has been used for several years. Recently, bambertmycin (Gain Pro) has been used as a feed additive for stocker cattle production. Rush et al. (1996) observed ADGs of stocker cattle that grazed crested wheat grass pastures were improved by 22.2% when Gain Pro was fed at 20 mg per animal per day. Therefore, it was the objective of this study to evaluate the effect of feeding aueromycin and Gain Pro to stocker cattle grazing fescue during the fall and winter.

Experimental Procedures

Seventy-two preconditioned crossbred steers, averaging 500 lb BW, were randomly divided into nine groups of eight animals and assigned to nine 4-acre fescue pastures on November 9, 1999, until February 29, 2000. One-third of the steers were supplemented with 70 mg of aueromycin per animal per day, one-third supplemented with 20 mg of Gain Pro per animal per day, and one-third received no supplementation. All steers were fed 2 lb of corn per animal per day. There were no differences in ADG, total gain, or gain per acre of steers from feeding antibiotics. Numerically, steers supplemented with aueromycin had an ADG of 1.33 lb/d, Gain Pro 1.17 lb, and controls 1.11 lb. These data suggest that there is no benefit of supplementing either aueromycin or Gain Pro on growth of stocker cattle while grazing fescue in the fall and winter.

Results and Discussion

The ADG, total gain (TG), and gain per acre (G/A) for steers supplemented with aueromycin and Gain Pro are given in Table 1. There were no differences in ADG, TG, or G/A as a result of feeding aueromycin or Gain Pro. These data do not agree with that of Rush et al. (1996), who reported a 22% increase in ADG of stocker steers, supplemented with 20 mg of Gain Pro per animal per day while grazing crested wheat grass. However, their study was conducted during the summer, whereas the present study was conducted during

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the fall and winter. Gains in the present study were similar to those observed by Daniels et al. (2000) in which stocker heifers grazed stockpiled endophyte-infected fescue. It appears from these data that aueromycin and Gain Pro provide no growth advantage to stocker cattle while grazing endophyte-infected fescue during the fall and winter.

**Implications**

There appeared to be little or no growth advantage to supplementing stocker cattle with either aueromycin or Gain Pro while grazing infected fescue during the fall and winter.

**Table 1. ADG, total gain (TG), and gain per acre (G/A) of steers grazing fescue pasture and supplemented with aueromycin and Gain Pro.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trait</th>
<th>Aueromycin</th>
<th>Gain Pro</th>
<th>Control</th>
<th>SE</th>
<th>P value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ADG, lb</td>
<td>1.33</td>
<td>1.17</td>
<td>1.11</td>
<td>0.08</td>
<td>0.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TG, lb</td>
<td>149.00</td>
<td>131.00</td>
<td>124.00</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>0.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G/A, lb</td>
<td>299.00</td>
<td>251.00</td>
<td>248.00</td>
<td>20.0</td>
<td>0.25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Literature Cited**