Clayton Livestock Research Center

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The number of beef steers on-site fluctuates depending upon the time of year.



120 acres planted to sorghum sudangrass (haygrazer) for hay



One of few research centers that have irrigated pasture along with feedlot pens he Clayton Livestock Research Center (CLRC) was established on 320 acres of Kiowa National Grassland, Cibola National Forest, and located 7 miles east of Clayton, NM. The New Mexico Legislature first appropriated funds in 1972 for construction and operation of the CLRC. A focus of research at the CLRC has been to improve the performance of cattle during the finishing period and to improve carcass characteristics. Several management decisions in the feedlot industry and recommendations in the nutrient requirements of beef cattle are a result of research conducted at the CLRC.

Future Goals

- One of the important factors at the CLRC is a center pivot irrigation system on 120 acres. The use of irrigated pasture to alleviate stress for newly received cattle and reduce costs of gain will be researched. The pivot has not been used in several years but it is a top priority to get the pivot and research program re-initiated.
- Scientists at New Mexico State University evaluated the impact of phytomolecules performance and carcass characteristics of finishing beef steers. These compounds have the potential to replace the feed additive Rumensin (monensin) in finishing diets.



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The College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences is an engine for economic and community development in New Mexico, improving the lives of New Mexicans through academic, research, and Extension programs. New Mexico State University is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer and educator. NMSU and the U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating.



2019 IMPACTS

Scientists at the Clayton Livestock Research Center have evaluated a novel approach to decrease respiratory disease in newly arrived feedlot cattle. Bovine respiratory disease has been estimated to cost the feedlot industry \$50 to 70 billion.

Research is being conducted to explore shipping protocols for cattle, to better the health and performance of newly received cattle and nutrition and management from entry to slaughter.

Use of growth-promoting technologies, such as beta-adrenergic agonists and anabolic implants, in the cattle feeding industry as a means to increase production efficiency results in economic returns of approximately \$200 million annually.

ONGOING RESEARCH

Research at the CLRC continues to evaluate dietary nutrient requirements when growthpromoting technologies are used in feedlot finishing cattle diets.

Fiber optic was installed at the center in spring 2019. However, the gas line was damaged during the installation of the fiber optic. Repairs are being made to the gas line and was completed during spring 2020.

Several finishing studies in various stages of progress at the CLRC, including looking at implants to enhance feed efficiency and growth rate, grain processing methods to increase starch utilization, and alternatives to commingling steers and spayed heifers.







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