

Significant Increases In Daily Gains And Improved Fly Control Are Results Of Robson Ranches Trial

A trial of Vigortone mineral on grass cattle at the Robson Ranches near Centralia, Oklahoma, resulted in increased daily gains and improved fly control. The Vigortone cattle weighed 15 to 60 pounds more at the end of the season than the control groups and exhibited fewer flies per animal.

The Double R Ranch, one of the Robson Ranches, located approximately 70 miles northeast of Tulsa, runs several thousand yearlings on summer and fall programs grazing predominantly on bluestem grass pastures.

The Vigortone trial compared five groups of genetically similar cattle. The cattle came to the ranch in the fall as light cattle weighing 400 pounds. They were wintered on the ranch, sorted and gate cut into 5 different groups, and then weighed out at a certified platform scale at the ranch in April.

"We were interested in looking at what would happen when we put our cattle back on some sort of mineral supplementation on the grass to see if there would be some benefits we hadn't seen before. We were interested in the (Vigortone) mineral to see if we could cut down on some of the costs of spraying the cattle. If we could get some fly control along with performance benefits, we'd kill two birds with one stone," said Bobby McDaniels, Ranch Manager.

Bobby was pleased with the degree of fly control the Vigortone mineral provided. ***"I could tell a difference. There just weren't as many flies on the steers getting the Vigortone mineral compared to the ones on the control,"*** said Bobby.

"There were times when I'd make little notes and there just weren't any flies. At first I thought I wasn't going to see a difference," he added.

Bobby's observations over the entire trial were that the Altosid IGR-fed animals definitely had fewer flies, seldom exceeding 100-150 horn flies per animal, whereas the control group had counts of 250 flies per head or more.



Frank Robson, right, owner and operator of Robson Ranches, with a representative from Vigortone.

Bobby believes the Vigortone mineral is beneficial not only because it helped control the fly population, but because it also will save on spraying time, expenses, and hassle.

"Just going through and working through the numbers myself, they look great to me. There are a lot of times when we carry the sprayers around. Anything to save that work and get an extra gain on the cattle – we're better off," said Bobby.