

Estrogen Activity

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Josh Payne, Oklahoma State area specialist compiled a news release regarding hormones and beef. We've used growth promotants since diethylstilbestrol was introduced in the early 1950's with generally positive results. DES was removed from the market, but we do have several natural hormones and some synthetic ones still available to increase cattle gains and improve feed conversion. Most feedlots utilize them to lower production costs. Cow-calf producers in this area mostly do not implant their feeder calves but the implants can boost gains 10 to 20 percent.

There are exceptions to their use in all-natural or organic operations. Josh included a table, I've seen before, that compares estrogenic activity of common foods

Food	Estrogenic Activity
Soy Flour defatted	755,000,000
Tofu	113,500,000
Pinto Beans	900,000
White Bread	300,000
Peanuts	100,000
Eggs	555
Butter	310
Milk	32
Beef from implanted steers	7
Beef from non-implanted steers	5

The activity of estrogen is measured in nanograms per 500 grams of food. One pound equals 454 grams.

Implants are not recommended for bulls or heifers intended for breeding purposes. Some are labeled for heifer calves, but follow label guidelines. ^Δ

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