

The Influence of Sometribove Dose and Days in Lactation on Behavior of Cows Implanted with Pelleted Sometribove

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Data were from observations of behavior of 99 lactating Holstein cows during implantations with bST. Implantations were at 14-d intervals during 1 yr. Cows on one study received 0, 120, 240, or 360 mg; cows on a second study received 0, 160, or 320 mg of bST per implantation. A checklist of behaviors was completed by the recorder and observer for each cow during implantation. Cows were also given an overall temperament score during each session. Lunging occurred in 49% of the sessions, but bellowing, kicking, and kneeling occurred least. More cows scored in the docile range than in the excited range. Cows habituated to head bobbing, back sagging, lunging, moving back in chute, flinching, head up, and bellowing, but not to shifting feet, kicking, shaking the head, head back, or ears back.

Key Words: behavior • pellet implantation • bovine somatotropin • temperament

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