

## Effects of Age on Castration and Growth Implants on Calf Weights

In a study conducted by Kansas State University, researchers early castrated and implanted calves (90 days of age). Calves had weaning weights similar to bull calves. Both groups weighed approximately fifteen pounds more at weaning than early castrated non-implanted calves. Bull calves were then castrated at weaning. At 28 days after weaning the early castrate, implanted steers weighed twenty pounds more than either the early castrated, no implant calves or the late castrated calves.

Previous research has shown the price of bull calves to be five to six dollars less than steer mates at typical weaning weights. If calves were sold at weaning, directly off their dams, the early castrated and implanted calves and the late castrated calves would have greater pay weights than the early castrated, non-implanted steers.

Cow/calf producers that desire marketing flexibility should consider early castration and implanting suckling calves if maximum pounds of saleable product are desirable.