

South Dakota Winter of 2018-2019

Feedlot Steers

This was a hard winter, and maybe even a harder spring in a lot of respects in Central South Dakota. There was a lot of mud, and pen conditions were less than ideal almost every day. Cattle were fed in two groups. The first consisted of similar numbers of heifers and steers. They had grass hay, salt, and mineral. The second group received HydroGreen along with the grass hay, salt and mineral, and was made up of mainly heifers, with about 10 steers in the group as a heifer vs steer test. Both groups were the same genetics off the producer's home raised cows. These calves ran in the same pasture until weaning. The cattle were fed through a vertical mixer until the mud prevented feed deliveries in their pens. Then, the hay was fed in round bale feeders to both groups and the HydroGreen group received HydroGreen in a bunk. While not ideal, the safety of HydroGreen allowed this to happen with no issues. Calves were fed November through mid-May.

Results: The HydroGreen group (which was primarily heifers) gained 0.3 pounds more per head per day and fed for \$0.51 cost per pound of gain. The non-HydroGreen Group fed for \$0.74 per pound of gain and gained slower than their brothers and sisters.

