

Implanting hormonal growth promotants

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Introduction

HGPs were first used in the USA beef industry in 1947 and in Australia their use began in 1979. They are used to compensate for the commercial need to castrate male calves

Each HGP product has detailed application instructions supplied with the product. It is important to follow these.

Applicator condition and cleanliness, needle sharpness and operation are most important.

Implant placement is critical. The crush area and the immediate head bail area should be clean to minimise infection risks.

Implanting is best done by one person only.

Cleanliness

The person implanting must maintain clean hands at all times, washing with an antiseptic soap when required.

Order of operation

Implanting should be the last operation done to the animal where multiple treatments are being given, for example:

- drench, lice treatment
- vaccination
- ear tagging, including NLIS
- apply triangular ear mark to the animal's right ear to indicate use of HGP
- implant HGP.

Implant site

The only approved implantation site for all brands of implants, except Ralgro, is subcutaneously (between the skin and the cartilage) in the middle third of the back of either ear. This is usually the animal's left ear. This allows efficient absorption and the ear does not enter the human food chain. Ralgro is implanted subcutaneously at the base of the ear.

Implanting technique

- Ensure the animal's head is properly restrained before implantation.
- Use sanitary techniques by observing the following:
 - ensure the needle is sharp and has been disinfected before each injection, and regularly wipe/clean the applicator with an antiseptic solution¹;
 - clean the ear to be implanted with an antiseptic solution.
- Do not penetrate any cartilage.
- While holding the point of the ear, slide the needle under the skin towards the base of the ear, being careful to remain above the cartilage; withdraw the implanter slowly while squeezing the trigger – this is important to prevent crushing or bunching of HGPs given in a pellet form.
- Pinch the injection site closed and feel the implant to make sure of correct placement.
- At the time of HGP placement, each treated animal must be permanently identified with the specified triangular HGP earmark punch, applied in the middle of the animal's right ear.
- Avoid implanting in the right ear because the implant site and the earmark site are the same.

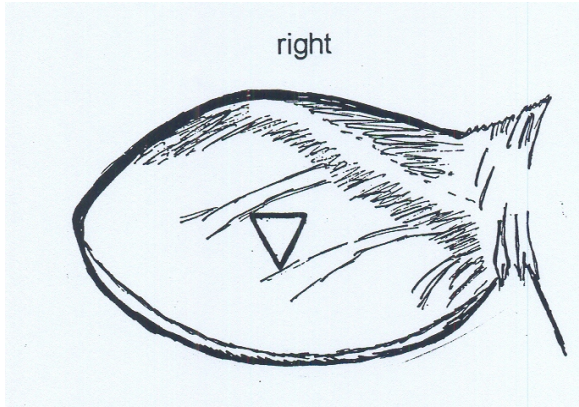
Improper implanting technique

Adverse responses to poor implantation include:

- development of scar tissue which may reduce absorption;
- crushing or bunching of pellets can result in side effects such as bulling, prolapses and elevated tailheads (crushing) due to rapid release of hormones;
- abscess formation at the injection site from bacterial infection because of poor sanitary conditions – this accounts for approximately 89% of defective implants.

¹ Antiseptic solutions suitable are rubbing alcohol or topical antiseptic solutions available from your veterinary supplier. Follow the manufacturer's directions for solution strength.





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Applying the NLIS tags

- The National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) tag is applied in the animal's right ear. This is the same ear as the triangular earmark is applied.
- The NLIS tag may be applied in the animal's left ear if there is insufficient room to apply the device. Notify this on your LPA/Waybill when selling cattle.

Ear mark suppliers

The triangular hole has 20 mm sides. Pliers should be available from your HGP supplier or directly from the following.

T.H. Starr	(02) 9718 1769
Hummelstad	(02) 6642 7130
W. Jno Baker	(02) 6884 6484
Leader Products	(03) 9308 2355
Pro Beef Aust.	(03) 5441 8033 1800 251 746

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