Are your Al Cattle Having a Better Growth Rate Than your Bull Bred Calves?

Orth, Avery (School: Wessington Springs)

Scheel, Carissa (School: Wessington Springs)

Our project is testing to see if AI calves or Bull Bred calves have a more efficient growth rate. We did get our project approved by our vet in town. This project is about animal science and none of it is dangerous towards the animals. All of the cattle had the same dependent variables and the only thing different was the type of bull used. We tested to see what bull had a better efficiency with natural or artificial semen and if it affected the growth rate of the calves born. We had 101 calves form each group in this testing, to total 202 cattle to complete this project. To figure out our growth rate you take the yearling weight subtracted by the birth weight, then divide this number by the birth weight. We concluded that AI calves have a better growth rate than the bull bred calves, but the numbers were a lot closer than we expected.