Supplements On Fall Range

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SUPPLEMENTAL feeding of year­
ling heifers on fall range at the
Manitou Experimental Forest dor­
ling the fall season of 1953 increased
weight gains 22.4 pounds per head,
increased market values 73 cents
per head, and resulted in $3.93
more per animal after cost of food
had been deducted.

The period of yearling heifers
fed off from four local ranchers
were used in the test. Individual
animals grazed from common feed
for good. The heifers were sorted
into two uniform groups based on
weight, overwintered as nearly as
quality.

After an all-night shrink,
they were weighed and each group
was placed on a separate range on
August 27. Both lots of cattle grazed
the ranges from that date until October 15, 1953, were supplemented for
the entire 50-day period, while the
other lot grazed without supple­
ments.

Forage on the two ranges was
similar. Most of the available for­
gage consisted of the native bunch­
grass ranges. Arizonas fescue, mesquite,
bunchgrasses, and little bluestem, but both
ranges contained small areas of crested
wheatgrass. Grazing by both
groups of heifers was concentrated
on the crested wheatgrass which the
heifers seemed to prefer to the active
bunchgrasses. Ample forage was
available in both areas. At the close
of the protein period, October 15, the
crested wheatgrass areas were utilized
an average of 65% and the native bunchgrass
are well above those made by heifers
on native bunchgrass ranges during
the fall season of 1953 increased
value were used in the test. Individual
weight gains 22.4 pounds per head,
similar.

The heifers were sorted into
ranges available in groups of
pairs systems is generally
some errors may remain.