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Passive Bolus Evaluation in Small Ruminants: Administration and Identification in Goat Kids

Calgary Alta.— Canadian Cattle Identification Agency (CCIA) conducted a Passive RFID Bolus Evaluation pilot study to evaluate the effectiveness of administering 11mm identification boluses to goat kids of different ages, breeds and weight.

A total of 35 kids were enrolled across three weight groups and were monitored for 35 days with weekly health checks and weight measurements. The youngest group consisted of approximately five week old kids, while the others were between 14 weeks and 30 weeks of age.

The study used 11mm HDX RFID boluses. This design allowed a comprehensive assessment of bolus effects across various weight groups while ensuring consistent monitoring and data collection.

Kids five weeks of age were found to be too small for successful bolus administration on day zero of the study, this group was administered boluses at the end of the 35-day period.

The study concluded with complete physical examinations and health assessments. The boluses were successfully retained with 100 per cent readability. Bolus administration did not impact growth performance, indicating no physiological effects from the devices. The kids did not present any other reactions or negative impacts on overall health.

The data demonstrates that administering 11mm identification boluses to goat kids is feasible and safe for animals above 16 kg. It supports Passive RFID Bolus technology as a potential reliable identification method in goats. Given the encouraging early results, a more comprehensive trial is planned to test application and retention across different animal sizes and breeds.

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