

The growth curves for early and late eruptors were compared (steers whose eruption age of the 1st incisor pair was less than the mean and greater than the mean resp.). From birth to 195 wk, early eruptors were heavier than late eruptors ( $P < 0.01$ ) by approx. 4% of the overall mean body weight. Growth was linear from birth up to 126 wk of age, and the variability increased markedly from about 60 wk of age. The av. daily gain from birth to 195 wk was 341 g. Linear growth rates for consecutive stages within this period were generally faster for early eruptors, with the differences ranging between 4 and 6% of the mean for periods exceeding 60 wk. Comparison of these differences showed that linear growth rates were only significantly different for growth periods of approx. 120 wk and longer. When the specific growth rates were compared, no differences were significant. The differences between the growth rates of fast and slow eruptors (steers whose eruption period was less than the mean and greater than the mean resp.) were not significant, both for linear and specific growth rates. Early eruptors had larger heads (head length X head width) relative to body weight ( $P < 0.05$ ), indicating eruption at an earlier stage of body development. Also, early eruptors had longer, narrower heads, suggesting slower maturation rates. Partial correlations between eruption age and head length varied from 0.37 to 0.74 ( $P < 0.01$ ). Partial correlations with other measures of skeletal development showed that they were of negligible importance relative to head development. Relations between eruption age of the 1st incisor pair and 6 measures of carcass composition were negligible, as none of the partial regression coefficients was significant.