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CONSTRUINDO SABERES, FORMANDO PESSOAS E TRANSFORMANDO A PRODUÇÃO ANIMAL

EFFECT OF LACTATION NUMBER ON MILK PRODUCTION IN BROWN SWISS COWS AT HUMID TROPICAL ENVIRONMENT

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The profitability of milk exploration is influenced by several factors, in which productive parameters contribute for the farms economic success or failure. Thus, our objective was to evaluate the effect of lactation number on productive performance in Brown Swiss cows of first, second and third lactations at a tropical humid climate. The production data were obtained from a farm located at Chiriquí province, Panamá. The chosen cows had been selected by lactation number, in which 20 cows for each lactation analysed, totalising 60 animals. The productive variables studied were milk production in 100 and 305 days of lactation. The data were submitted to variance analysis and averages were compared by the Tukey test with 95% of confidence. The milk production in 100 days presented significative difference ($P<0.05$) between lactation number, so that third lactation cows showed higher productive performance with 1,994 ± 250 kg when compared to first and second lactation cows with 1,362 ± 239 and 1,710 ± 278 kg, respectively. It was observed a similar growing linear behaviour to milk production in 305 days of lactation ($P<0.05$), in which third lactation cows presented higher productive performance (5,014 ± 719 kg), regarding to first and second lactation cows (3,752 ± 599 and 4,368 ± 638 kg, respectively). The present study showed, in general matter, that milk production increased according to lactation number; this result is, most likely, associated to physiological maturity of dairy cows. The productive performance of Brown Swiss cows is influenced by lactation number and presented a higher productive performance at third lactation, in which was reached the highest performance and secretory capacity of the mammary gland.

Keywords: dairy cows**,** performance, ruminant

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