

CONSTRUINDO SABERES, FORMANDO PESSOAS E TRANSFORMANDO A PRODUÇÃO ANIMAL

## FERMENTATIVE PARAMETERS AND LOSSES OF CULTIVAR BRS ZURI SILAGE WITH CORN MEAL

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The high productivity of BRS Zuri grass cultivar allows its use in the form of silage destined to production animals in certain periods of quality bulky deficit. The objective of this study was to evaluate the fermentation characteristics and losses of the *Panicum maximum* cv. BRS Zuri with inclusion of maize corn. The experimental design was a completely randomized design with three corn meal levels (0, 25, 50 g kg<sup>-1</sup>) and four replicates per treatment. The forage used was collected in free growing stage and ensiled in PVC silos (10 cm in diameter x 43 cm in length). At the bottom of the experimental silos were added a layer of sand and TNT to determine the losses. The content of dry matter (DM), pH, ammoniacal nitrogen (N-NH<sub>3</sub>) and gas, effluent and total dry matter losses were determined. The data were analyzed through analysis of variance and the means were compared by the Tukey test at the 5% level of significance. The addition of corn meal increased the DM content from 269.3 to 296.7 g kg<sup>-1</sup>, while the inclusion of corn reduced pH values (4.48 to 3.58), gas losses (45.3 to 26.0 g kg<sup>-1</sup> DM) and total dry matter losses (70.8 to 42.60 g kg<sup>-1</sup> DM). N-NH<sub>3</sub> and effluent losses did not show significant effects, with a mean of 20.87 g kg<sup>-1</sup> of total nitrogen and 190.30 g kg<sup>-1</sup>, respectively. It is recommended the addition of 25 g kg<sup>-1</sup> of maize corn in the ensiling of *Panicum maximum* cv. BRS Zuri for promoting improvements in fermentation characteristics and reduction of losses

**Keywords:** ammoniacal nitrogen, dry matter, pH, tropical forage

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