

CONSTRUINDO SABERES, FORMANDO PESSOAS E TRANSFORMANDO A PRODUÇÃO ANIMAL

## STRATEGIES OF SUPPLEMENTATION IN THE PHASE OF REARING ON THE QUALITY MEAT OF STEERS FINISHED IN CONFINEMENT

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The present study aimed to evaluate the effect of supplementary strategies in the rearing phase on the quality meat of Aberdeen Angus steers finished in confinement. The rearing (123 days) was performed in Aruana grass, being the animals supplemented with mineral salt (control) and multiple supplements for consumption of 2 or 4 g/kg body weight/day. The experimental design was a completely randomized design with three treatments (supplements on rearing) and eight replicates (animals). Twenty-four steers with initial body weight of 423.65 kg and initial age of 18 months were used. Prior to the feedlot experimental period (59 days), the animals were adapted to diets and facilities for 17 days. The supply of diets was *ad libitum*. The content of corn silage of diets was of 17%. The animals were slaughtered with 479.96 kg of body weight. The color (1 = dark, 2 = dark red, 3 = slightly dark red, 4 = red; and 5 = light red), texture (1 = very coarse, 2 = thick, 3 = slightly coarse, 4 = fine, 5 = very thin) and marbling (1 - 3 = dashes, 4 - 6 = slight; 9 = small, 10 - 12 = medium, 13 - 15 = moderate, 16 - 18 = abundant) were determined in the *Longissimus dorsi* muscle. None of the evaluated characteristics was influenced by the supplementation strategy. Low-consumption supplements provided for Aberdeen Angus steers rearing in Aruana grass pasture do not alter quality meat.

**Keywords:** color, marbling, texture

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