

CONSTRUINDO SABERES, FORMANDO PESSOAS E TRANSFORMANDO A PRODUÇÃO ANIMAL

Performance of crossbred calves to early weaned

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The experiment evaluated the performance of growth crossbred calves to early weaning, in Corumbá/MS – Brazil. The crossbred calves ($\frac{1}{2}$ Angus & $\frac{1}{2}$ Nellore; n=20; 123 ± 22 days of average age; 2227.47 ± 9.15 kg of initial body weight), were stratified by body weight, and managed in a rotational stocking in *Brachiaria humidicola* pastures (2 hectare/animal), between September, 2015 and January, 2016. The experiment design was completely randomized with two treatments with teen repetitions (16 animals/treatment). Treatments were: 1) Early weaned steers received 1.15 kg/day/animal of supplement during all experiment (**Low**); 2) Early weaned steers received 1% body weight of supplement in the experiment start, and each two weeks the weights were adjusted. Estimating average daily gain of 0.800 kg/animal (**High**). The supplement contained approximately 18.5% crude protein and 69% total digestible nutrients, and offered to animals two times per day (7am and 4pm). The each 56 days, the animals were weighty. To remove the effect of the animals' birth date, final weight and average daily gain were corrected for 240 days. The data were analyzed using the PROC GLM of SAS v.9.2 (SAS Institute Inc., Cary, CA). A significance level of 5% was adopted. Observed significant effect ($p < 0,05$) between the treatments (Low and High), when the final weight and average daily gain were evaluated (209.21 and 239.74 kg; 0.641 and 0.759 kg/d, respectively). Therefore, it is interesting the early weaning received energy high supplement, providing heavier calves.

Keywords: beef cattle, supplementation, production efficiency

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