

CONSTRUINDO SABERES, FORMANDO PESSOAS E TRANSFORMANDO A PRODUÇÃO ANIMAL

EFFECTS OF HOMEOPATHIC BLEND ON BODY MEASUREMENTS AND WEIGHT OF WEANED HOLSTEIN CALVES

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Homeopathic products have attracted interest during the past few years in order to reduce the abusive use of antibiotics in livestock. The aim of this study was evaluate the effect of homeopathic blend supplementation on body measurements and weight of weaned Holstein calves. A double-blind placebo-controlled trial of an homeopathic blend treatment was performed with 184 weaned Holstein calves (83.01 ± 7.9 days old; 112.5 ± 11.7 kg) which were allocated to 8 paddocks in a completely randomized design experiment. During a 112 days period, the animals received a total mixed ration with the following treatments: control (basal diet + calcium carbonate, top-dressed at 30 g animal⁻¹ day⁻¹: homeopathic vehicle) and homeopathic blend (basal diet + TopVita® – Real H, top-dressed at 30 g animal⁻¹ day⁻¹: *Sulphur*: 10⁻⁶⁰ + *Viola tricolor*: 10⁻¹⁴ + *Caladium seguinum*: 10⁻³⁰ + *Zincum oxydatum*: 10⁻³⁰ + *Phosphorus*: 10⁻⁶⁰ + *Cardus marianus*: 10⁻⁶⁰ + *Colibacillum*: 10⁻³⁰ + *Podophyllum*: 10⁻³⁰ + Vehicle: calcium carbonate - q.s. 1 kg). Weight and body measures were taken each 28 days until 112 days of supplementation. Data were analyzed by a MIXED procedure for repeated measurements of SAS and statistical significance was declared at P≤0.05. No differences were observed on body weight every 28 days period and ADG between treatments during 112 days of the study. Homeopathic blend increased withers height during the initial growing period from d0 to d28 (95.46 vs. 96.71 cm) and body depth at d28 (48.2 vs. 48.98 cm) and d84 (51.61 vs. 52.78 cm) compared to control group, but no differences were detected for the other periods. Pelvic width was higher for homeopathic treatment on d84 (33.3 vs. 33.6 cm), but similar results were found for both treatments for the other periods. Homeopathic blend may influence some body measurements of weaned Holstein calves in specific days of supplementation, but there was no difference between treatments at the end of the study.

Keywords: antibiotics, bacterial resistance, homeopathy, livestock, performance

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