

CONSTRUINDO SABERES, FORMANDO PESSOAS E TRANSFORMANDO A PRODUÇÃO ANIMAL

CARCASS EVALUATION OF CURRALEIRO PÉ-DURO CATTLE AND THEIR CROSSES WITH COMMERCIAL BREEDS

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The aim of the study was to assess the quantitative carcass traits of purebred Curraleiro Pé-Duro (CPD), Nelore (NEL) and their crossing cattle. The experiment included 34 animals: seven CPD, six Nelore (NEL), seven F₁ (1/2 NEL + 1/2 CPD), seven F_{2A} (1/4 CPD + 1/4 NEL + 1/2 Angus), and seven F_{2S} (1/4 CPD + 1/4 NEL + 1/2 Senepol). All animals were born in 2013, slaughtered in 2017, and were fed exclusively with pasture and mineral supplementation. Animals were slaughtered in a commercial facility located in Timon-MA, northeastern Brazil. Carcasses were quantitatively assessed for following variables: carcass yield (CY), eye muscle area (EMA), subcutaneous fat thickness (SFT), and INDEX. A sample from *Longissimus dorsi* between the 12th and the 13th rib was collected from each animal. To access EMA, an outline of the muscle was traced in vegetable paper and subsequently expressed as the total area (cm²) with the aid of a planimeter. SFT was measured using a caliper. CY was determined as the ratio of live weight before slaughter to carcass weight expressed in percentage. INDEX was calculated by dividing EMA by carcass weight and multiplying it by 100 to determine the ratio of EMA to 100 kg of carcass. Mean SFT of CPD (0.19±0.12 cm) was similar to that of F₁ (0.19±0.09 cm), F_{2A} (0.30±0.10 cm), F_{2S} (0.16±0.08 cm), and NEL (0.15±0.05 cm) breeds (P>0.05), but the mean SFT of the FSA breed was significantly higher than NEL breed (P=0.0376). The CY of the CPD breed (51.76±1.98%) was similar to that of F_{2S} (53.67±1.40%), F₁ (53.51±1.96%), F_{2A} (53.05±2.58%) and NEL (49.99±1.40%) breeds (P>0.05), but the CY of F_{2S} and F_{2A} breeds was significantly higher than NEL breed (P=0.0099). The INDEX of CPD breed (16.38±2.86) was significantly higher than F_{2S} (11.68±1.33) and F₁ (12.29±2.08) breeds and similar to that of NEL (14.00±2.39) and F_{2A} (15.17±2.01) breeds (P=0.0021). In conclusion, the CPD purebred and crossbred are an alternative for meat production in environments providing low nutritional intake, since it has quantitative carcass traits.

Keywords: beef, carcass, Nelore, local breeds

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