

CONSTRUINDO SABERES, FORMANDO PESSOAS E TRANSFORMANDO A PRODUÇÃO ANIMAL

GUZERÁ, SENEPOL AND CARACU AS SIRE BREEDS IN CROSSBREEDING SYSTEMS

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There are restrictions on the use of crossbreeding in regions of tropical climate, one of them is, the use of natural mating with bulls from breed european. However, an alternative to this problem is the use of adapted taurine breeds zebu breeds in crossbred systems. For this reason, the objective was to evaluate the influence of paternal breed on the performance of crossbred cattle. Two hundred eight animals (male and female), produced from mating Caracu, Senepol and Guzerá bulls with Nellore, ½ Nellore + ½ Angus and ½ Nellore + ½ Caracu cows were used. The animals were raised in pastures of *Brachiaria brizantha* cv. Marandu receiving mineral supplements during the cow-calf phase, and receiving protein and protein-energy supplementation during the growing phase. The body weight (BW) was recorded in periods of 56 d to calculate average daily gain (ADG) and determine final BW. Data were analyzed using mixed models in PROC MIXED (from SAS) at 5% significance. Birth weight of progenies of Guzerá and Senepol bulls ($P < 0.05$) were higher than for the progenies of Caracu bulls (37.3, 35.7 and 32.8 kg, respectively). Weaning weight was higher ($P < 0.05$) for progenies of Guzerá bulls (234.3 kg), lower for Caracu (218.6 kg), and Senepol progenies (224.0 kg) were intermediate. Progenies of Guzerá bulls presented higher ($P < 0.05$) BW at the end of the dry season than progenies of Senepol and Caracu bulls (276.3, 261.2 and 253.5, kg, respectively), as well as higher BW at the end of the growing phase (436.7, 411.1 and 400.5, respectively). Influence ($P < 0.05$) of the paternal genetic group on ADG in the growing was observed, with higher performance for Guzerá bulls progenies, lower for Caracu progenies and Senepol progenies in intermediate position (0.507, 0.463 and 0.476 kg d⁻¹, respectively). For the crossbreed system evaluated, progenies of Guzerá bulls obtained superior performance when compared to the progenies of Caracu and Senepol bulls.

Keywords: adapted taurine, beef cattle, heterosis, production systems, zebu

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