

CONSTRUINDO SABERES, FORMANDO PESSOAS E TRANSFORMANDO A PRODUÇÃO ANIMAL

EFFECTS OF HOMEOPATHIC BLEND ON HEMATOLOGICAL STATUS OF WEANED HOLSTEIN CALVES

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Although in recent years farmers have shown interest in using homeopathy, the reliability of its products has still to be demonstrated on health parameters of production animals. The aim of the study was evaluate the effect of homeopathic blend supplementation on hematological status of weaned Holstein calves in a double-blind placebo-controlled trial. One hundred and eighty-four weaned Holstein calves (83.01 ± 7.9 days old; 112.5 ± 11.7 kg) were allocated to 8 paddocks in a completely randomized design experiment. During a 112 days period, animals received a total mixed ration with the following treatments: (1) control (basal diet + calcium carbonate, top-dressed at $30 \text{ g animal}^{-1} \text{ day}^{-1}$: homeopathic vehicle) and (2) homeopathic blend (basal diet + TopVita® – Real H, top-dressed at $30 \text{ g animal}^{-1} \text{ day}^{-1}$: *Sulphur*: 10^{-60} + *Viola tricolor*: 10^{-14} + *Caladium seguinum*: 10^{-30} + *Zincum oxydatum*: 10^{-30} + *Phosphorus*: 10^{-60} + *Cardus marianus*: 10^{-60} + *Colibacillinum*: 10^{-30} + *Podophyllum*: 10^{-30} + Vehicle: calcium carbonate - q.s. 1 kg). Blood samples were collected each 28 days until d112. Data were analyzed by a MIXED procedure for repeated measurements of SAS and statistical significance was declared at $P \leq 0.05$. All variables remained within the reference range for bovines. No difference was observed on red blood cells, hemoglobin, hematocrit, as well as hematimetric index between treatments. Similar results were detected on leukocytes and monocytes count and granulocyte/lymphocyte ratio. The interaction between treatment and day affected the lymphocyte and granulocyte count because on d28 post-supplementation calves in control treatment had lower number of these cells compared to homeopathic treatment, thus characterizing the “stress leukogram”. Higher platelet count also was found to control group during the supplementation period. The “stress leukogram” time-dependent and higher platelet count in control group may indicate low stress resilience to intensive management soon after weaning and more antibiotics use during the experimental period, respectively.

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

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