

CONSTRUINDO SABERES, FORMANDO PESSOAS E TRANSFORMANDO A PRODUÇÃO ANIMAL

NUTRITIVE VALUE OF CONVERT™ HD 364 GRASS HANDLED UNDER GRAZING HEIGHTS

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The objective of this study was to evaluate the nutritive value of the Convert™ HD364 grass under different management strategies in continuous stocking. The experimental area was 16 hectares, divided into 16 paddocks of approximately one hectare. A randomized block design with four replications was used. Treatments consisted of grazing heights (15, 25, 35, 45 cm) of the hybrid *Brachiaria* Convert™ HD364. The nutritive value of the grass - Convert™ HD364 was evaluated in the winter, spring, summer and autumn of 2016/2017, with duration of one year. Three animals per picket were used as testers and height regulating animals, when necessary. Grass height measurements were evaluated once a week and the forage mass was estimated every 28 days. Through the forage mass, the nutritive value of the leaf blades fraction was estimated for crude protein (CPIb), neutral detergent fiber (NDFIb), acid detergent fiber (ADFIb) and in vitro dry matter digestibility (IVDMDIb) using the Proximal Infrared Reflectance Spectrophotometry System (NIRS). The data were analyzed containing the random effects of blocks, and the fixed effects of grazing height and seasons and their interactions, in the case of significance, regression analysis was carried out, evaluating the effect of height in each season. Tukey's test was used for analysis of means (5% significance). For these analyzes SAS was used. It was observed interaction grazing height x season of the year for CPIb. The pastures managed at 15 cm presented independently of the season the larger CPIb in which it decreased with the increase of the grass height, with 103.76, 91.79, 105.57 and 113.52 g.kg⁻¹ for the seasons of winter, spring, summer and autumn, respectively. This is probably due to the high flow of the nitrogenous components in the younger leaves, a result of the intense defoliation that occurred. The summer season yielded higher IVDMDIb, NDFIb and ADFIb, with 696.31, 596.16 and 289.22 g.kg⁻¹, respectively. Grasses managed at 15 cm in height had the lowest concentrations of NDFIb (573.86 g.kg⁻¹) and ADFIb (276.48 g.kg⁻¹), in which, increased with grazing height. It is possible that the lowest nutrient value of the highest maintained pastures it was 'cause from the largest amount of old leaves present in the canopy, since the leaves rejected by the animals continue to grow old. Convert™ HD364 grass when handled at 15 cm height presented better nutritional value.

Keywords: *Brachiaria* hybrid, stocking rate, handle grass.

Promoção e Realização:



Apoio Institucional:



Organização:





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Acknowledgments: CNPq for granting the grant and Dow Agrosiences for financial support.

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