

CONSTRUINDO SABERES, FORMANDO PESSOAS E TRANSFORMANDO A PRODUÇÃO ANIMAL

PASTURE INTERVENTIONS ON JEQUITINHONHA AND MUCURI VALLEYS: AIMING SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION

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Forage plants are the base of livestock feeding in Brazil, which implies on the lower cost of animal production. However, many producers did not give necessary attention to pasture areas, resulting in degradation, weed infestation and productivity decreases. The intervention, characterization and transformation of grazing feed animal production systems in farms at Jequitinhonha and Mucuri valleys aims better efficiency and constant forage production along the year, ensuring profitability and persistence of producers in the farm. The project practices are accomplished in Jequitinhonha and Mucuri valleys farms, on a practical, exploratory, descriptive and visual ways. Data is collected by interviewing producers that work with grazing fed animals and/or forage supplementation, as main feeding source. The project is composed by two phases: The selection of farms that need intervention and pasture renewal; Visiting properties aiming to explain the project goals and to define the producer profile, also, to evaluate the pasture conditions and techniques to minimize the requirement of forages supplement during dry season; Define easy and cheap alternatives in order to increase forage production, thus, incrementing meat or milk productivity. The second phase is composed by the second visit, which it is evaluated the recommendations application. The project is in progress, but there have already been visits and reunions in three properties located in the region, which presented low fertility soils besides precipitation irregularities, that leads to lower productive indexes, economic issues and producers frustration. It is noticed that producers on this region need information to continue milk and meat commerce, which highlights the importance of extension projects aiming to spread information and new techniques. Until now, it is observed that information, orientation and viable alternatives proposed to producers about pasture management and alternatives to reduce the productivity seasonality has left more producers that are confident. It is also noticed that some of them have followed the suggestions, obtaining better results with acceptable costs and increase in the profitability of the livestock activity and, consequently, reduction in the rural migration and opportunities of employment around the region.

Keywords: extension project, forage production, milk and meat production, sustainability.

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