

CONSTRUINDO SABERES, FORMANDO PESSOAS E TRANSFORMANDO A PRODUÇÃO ANIMAL

PERFORMANCE OF YOUNG BULLS OF DIFFERENT GENETIC GROUPS SUBMITTED TO HIGH GRAIN DIET

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In order to improve the productivity of herds, oriented crossbreeding between breeds has been widely used in Brazil. When it is carried out between zebu and taurine breeds, confined herds might have greater precocity, high weight gains and better productive efficiency. Thus, the aim of this study was to evaluate the performance of young bulls of Nelore, Aberdeen Angus and Canchim breeds submitted to high grain diets. A total of 27 non-castrated males were confined with initial body weight average of 240 kg. Nelore PO (100% *Bos Indicus*), and the crossbreeds NeloreXCanchim (68.8% *Bos Indicus*) and NeloreXAberdeen-Angus (50% *Bos Indicus*) were used, being nine animals of each genetic group. The study was carried out at the Universidade Estadual de Mato Grosso do Sul (UEMS), in Aquidauana/MS. The animals remained confined for 98 days, receiving diets based on 85% of whole corn grain and 15% of a pelleted protein nucleus, in which contained soybean meal, minerals, vitamins, buffers and ionophore. The total dry matter intake (TDMI) was estimated by the difference between the amount of feed supplied and the quantity of leftovers. The average daily gain was calculated by subtracting the final body weight minus the initial body weight of the period divided by the number of days in the period. The feed conversion was calculated by dividing the weight gain by dry matter consumption. A completely randomized experimental design was performed, moreover, data were submitted to variance analysis and the means were compared by the Tukey test at 5% of significance level. The crossbred animals reached higher dry matter intake and the higher average daily gain when compared to the Nelore group, but the feed conversion did not differ between the genetic groups. Crossbred animals have a better performance in whole grain diets, however, there is no influence on feed efficiency.

Keywords: beef cattle, crossbreeding, whole corn

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