

CONSTRUINDO SABERES, FORMANDO PESSOAS E TRANSFORMANDO A PRODUÇÃO ANIMAL

Performance of Nellore steers submitted to different weaning strategies

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The experiment evaluated the performance of Nellore steers submitted to different weaning strategies, in Corumbá/MS – Brazil. The Nellore steers (n=48; 123±22 days of age; 110.8±21.67 kg of BW) were stratified by BW, and managed in a rotational stocking in *Brachiaria humidicola* pastures (2 hectares/animal), between September 2015 and June, 2016. The experiment design was completely randomized with three treatments with sixteen repetitions (16 animals/treatment). Treatments were: 1) Steers allocated with the cows (during eight months) until weaning in the pastures (**Conventional**); 2) Early weaned steers received 1.15 kg/day/animal of supplement during all experiment (**Low**); 3) Early weaned steers received 1% BW of supplement in the experiment start, and each two weeks the weights were adjusted. Estimating ADG of 0.800 kg/animal (**High**). The supplement contained approximately 18.5% crude protein and 69% total digestible nutrients, and offered to animals two times per day (7am and 4pm). The each 56 days, the animals were weighty. To remove the effect of the animals' birth date, final weight and average daily gain were corrected for 240 days. The data were analyzed using the PROC GLM of SAS v.9.2 (SAS Institute Inc., Cary, CA). A significance level of 5% was adopted. Evaluated the final weight and average daily gain, the Conventional and High treatments are not effect (p>0.05), however, observed significant effect (p<0.05) when comparing these treatments with the Low (189.0, 188.9 and 174.9 kg; 0.612, 0.599 and 0.546 kg/day, respectively). Early weaning (High) and conventional, provides greater results in animal performance. Concluded that if the animals are sold after weaning, there is no necessary to receive High energy supplementation when compared to Low energy supplementation.

Keywords: beef cattle, calves, supplement concentrated.

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