

H37 POSTER

MILK PRODUCTION AND CALF WEIGHT GAIN OF BEEF COWS FROM DIFFERENT GENOTYPES¹

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Beef calves weight gain is influenced by the cow's milk production, which is the main source of feed until the third month of life. The objective of this study was to correlate the milk production of beef cows from different genotypes with the weight gain performance of their calves. Measurements of milk production and weighing of calves were done in four different times, every 21 days by the indirect method (weighing the calf before and after suckling), using ten Angus cows (ANAN), 17 Angus x Caracu (ANCR), 18 Angus x Hereford (ANHH) and 21 Angus x Nelore (ANNE). During the study period of 84 days, ANNE and ANCR cows had higher milk production (515.6 kg and 490.6 kg, respectively) and did not differ between themselves. Similarly, the weight gain of calves from these cows was also higher (58.2 kg and 57.5 kg for body weight gain and 0.695 to 0.707 kg for average daily gain, respectively). The partial correlation between cow's milk production and calves weight gain was positive (0.32) but moderate, indicating that other maternal and environmental aspects are also important to early calf development. Milk production and calves weight gain can be influenced by beef cows genotype, being demonstrated in this study the effects of maternal and individual heterosis obtained through crossbreeding.