PSII-8

Different nutritional management strategies post-weaning in growth and reproductive performance of Nellore heifers

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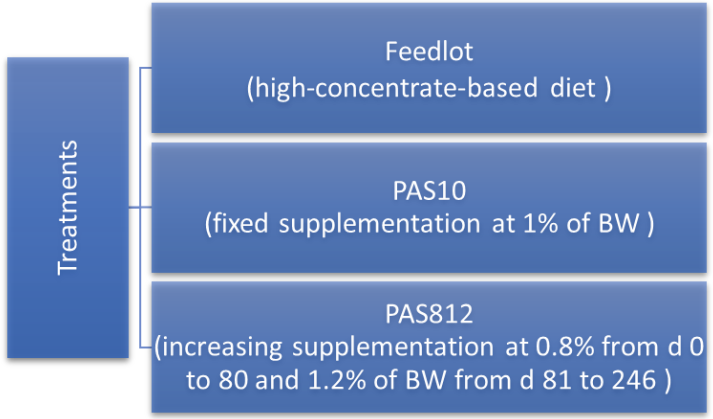
Introduction and Objective

Reproductive characteristics have low heritability, showing that nutrition and the environment can influence. The objective was to evaluate different nutritional management strategies to optimize growth and reproductive performance of Nellore heifers submitted to the fixed-time artificial insemination (FTAI) at 14-15 mo.

Material and Methods

- 126 Nellore heifers (152±22 kg; 8 months);



- 6 lots/treatment and 7 animals/lot;
- Feedlot or *Brachiaria* pastures paddocks;
- BW and ADG at different days;
- 2 FTAI and final pregnancy rate was determined.

Results

Heifer BW on d160 was greater (P<0.01) for feedlot vs. PAS10 and PAS812 (264 vs. 251 and 253 kg, respectively). Overall ADG from d0 to the start of breeding season (d160) and BW on d246 were greater (P<0.01) for FDL vs. PAS10 and PAS812 (0.72 vs. 0.62 and 0.64 kg/d, and 325 vs. 310 and 316 kg, respectively).

Heifer BW on d160 and 246 and ADG from d0 to 160 did not differ between PAS10 and PAS812 (P≥0.33).

Besides this, final pregnancy rates of Nellore heifers submitted to the FTAI at 14-15 mo did not differ (P=0.75) among treatments.

Figure 1. Nellore heifers at pasture and feedlot.

Conclusion

Growth performance, but not pregnancy rates following FTAI, was enhanced for Nellore heifers developed in drylot vs. pasture systems and submitted to FTAI at 14-15 mo.

Acknowledgments