

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS OF ANIMAL PRODUCTION AND PRICES OVER THE COST OF FEEDLOT BEEF CATTLE

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Objective

The aim of this study was to analyze the influence of the zootechnical performance indicators and the price main cost items on the total production cost of feedlot beef cattle.

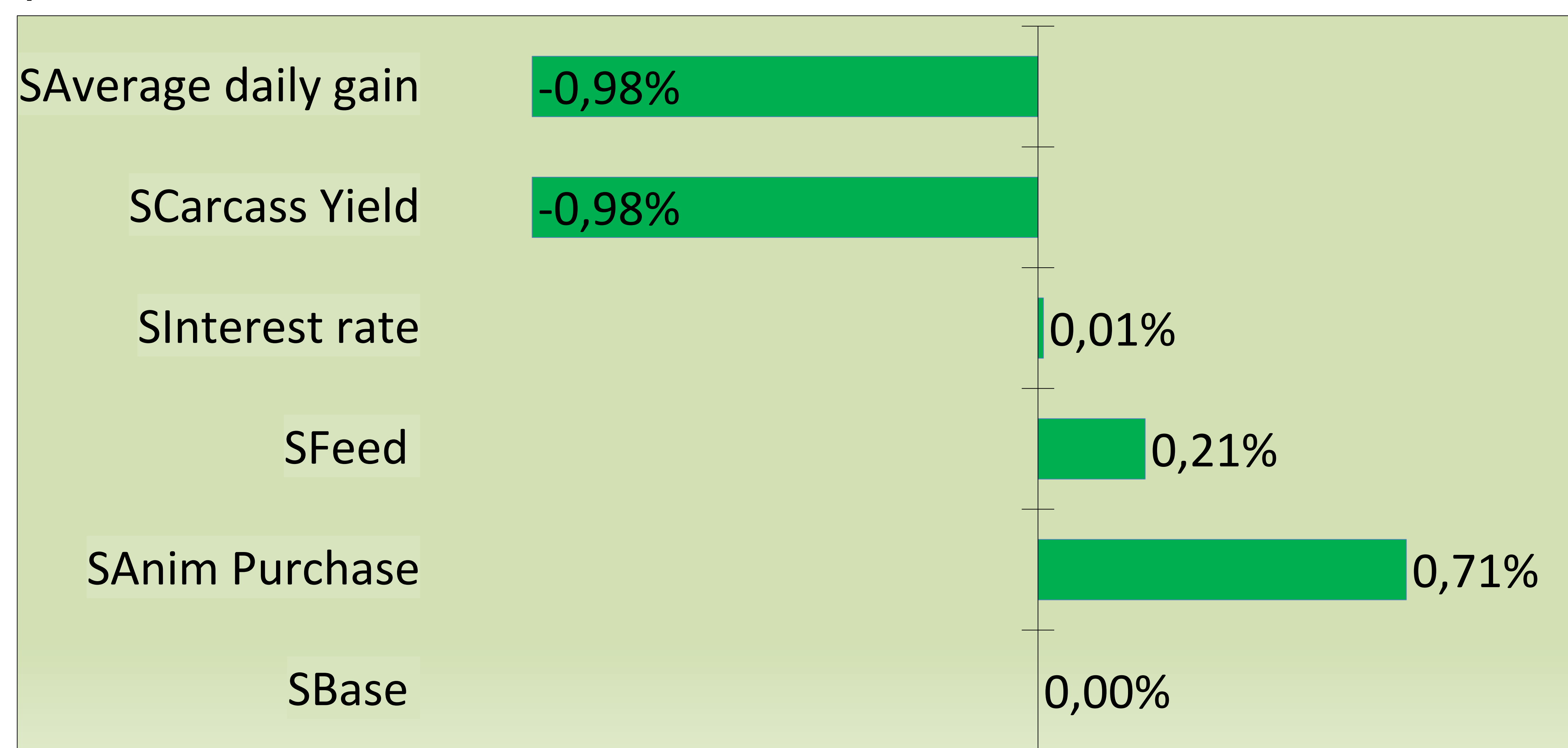
Material and Methods

- Costs were allocated into: i) variable costs, ii) fixed costs, and iii) factor income.
- Representative property was defined with 27 thousand animals slaughtered per year.
- Elasticity was calculated by the variation of total cost per carcass kilo caused by increases of 1% in each of the considered variables.
- The base scenario was: animals purchase of 355 kg (\$ 1.78/kg), feed price (\$ 0.17/kg of DM), interest rate (4.5%), average daily gains (1.616 kg), and carcass yield (55.46%).

Results and Discussion

In the base scenario, production cost was US\$ 3.11/kg. Increases of 1% in each of those variables caused variations of, respectively, +0,71%, +0,21%, +0,01%, -0,98%, and -0,98% on production cost unit.

Figure 1 - Effect of increase by 1% of the considered variables on the production cost.



Conclusion

- The purchase price of animals for feedlot activity is interrelated to the total cost.
- The average daily gains and carcass yield is also a zootechnical performance that presented a direct relation with the reduction of total costs.
- Farmers should improve management practices, either in the purchase of inputs and the performance of animal production.