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Results of applying different food supplyng levels to calves type "criollo limonero"

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Abstract

With the purpose of evaluating the optimum level of concentrate food to reach an adequate weight for pasturing and to decrease feeding costs at the first stage of growth, 26 calves (13 male and 13 female) from 60 days of age and 38 kilograms of live weight (L.W.) were used. They were distributed at random in four treatments: T1 , 0.5 ; T2, 1.0 ; T3, 1.5 kilograms of dry mater (D.M.) of commercial concentrate food with a 18% of crude protein (C.P.) for each 100 kilograms of live weight (L.W.) per animal respectively and T 4 or control 300 grams (g.) a day of dry matter (D.M.) of concentrate food, plus two litters / day of cows milk given in buckets. In all treatments, the animals received water, mineral salts, and cut german grazing *(Echinochloa polystachia)*. After each weighing , adjustments to the weekly amount of food given to the animals were made during the 84 days that the experiment aplace. A completely randomized statistical design was used with the variables of weight at birth, weight at the beginning of the experiment, and sex , all of which did not have significant influence on the treatments. There were significant differences($P < 0.05$) between treatments T1 and T4, but not between these and treatments T2 and T3. The daily and accumulated gains were: 282 ± 2.38 "a"; 309 ± 26.0 "ab"; 290 ± 24.4 "ab"; and 378 ± 31.8 "b" kilograms of L.W. for treatments T1, T2 , T3 , and T4 , respectively. The results obtained lead us to recommend treatment T4 from a biological point of view (weight gain), but the economic analysis cost/benefit leads us to recommend treatment T1 , because it represents an economic difference of 84.52 % with respect to treatment T4.

Key words: Type "criollo limonero", calves, food supplying.

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