

Milk production, body weight gain and pregnancy percentile in crossbred buffaloes with multinutritional block feed supplement.

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Abstract

In order to evaluate the effect of supplying multi-nutritional blocks on milk production (MP), body weight (BW) and pregnancy percentile (PP) during 120 days after calving, an experiment was carried out on a crossbred buffalo farm located in the Mara Municipality, Zulia State, in a very dry tropical forest zone. Twenty nine female buffaloes were selected according to number of calvings and randomly distributed in two treatments. The treatments were: SB: (N=15) grazing in *Echinochloa polystachia* and *Brachiaria arrecta*, and CB: (N= 14) SB + multi-nutritional blocks *ad libitum*. Milk production was measured monthly, and body weight at the beginning and at the end of the experimental period, and pregnancy at the end of the experimental period. The data were analyzed using the variance model and the least squares method in the Statistical Analysis System (SAS). The daily MP (MPD) and total MP (MPT at 120 days); daily changes in BW (BWD) and total body weight change (BWT at 120 days) were significantly higher ($P < 0,01$) in the buffaloes that received multi-nutritional blocks. Values obtained were: MPD: 3,07 kg vs 2,09 kg of milk; MPT: 369 kg vs 251 kg of milk; BWD: 0,076 kg vs -0,168 kg and BWT: 9,2 kg vs -20,2 kg in total body for CB and SB, respectively. The percentage of pregnancy didn't show significant differences ($P < 0,05$). The supply of multi-nutritional blocks improved the milk production and the body weight gain thus establishing a recommendable method for female buffaloes lactating in such tropical condition.

Key words: Buffaloes, multi-nutritional blocks, milk production, weight gain, fertility.

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