

CONSTRUINDO SABERES, FORMANDO PESSOAS E TRANSFORMANDO A PRODUÇÃO ANIMAL

FINISHING HEIFERS STRATEGIES FOR PREMIUM BEEF MARKET: CARCASS CHARACTERISTICS

Lucy Mery Antonia SURITA*¹, Gabriela ZARDO¹, Ricardo FÁVERO³, Marina de Nadai BONIN¹, André Luiz Julien FERRAZ², Rodrigo da Costa GOMES⁴, Gilberto Romeiro de Oliveira MENEZES⁴, Gelson Luis Días FEIJÓ⁴

*corresponding author: lucymerysurita@hotmail.com

¹Universidade Federal de Mato Grosso do Sul, Campo Grande, Mato Grosso do Sul, Brasil

²Universidade Estadual de Mato Grosso do Sul, Aquidauana, Mato Grosso do Sul, Brasil

³Universidade Estadual de Londrina, Londrina, Paraná, Brasil

⁴Embrapa Gado de Corte, Campo Grande, Mato Grosso do Sul, Brasil

Heifers starts body fat deposition earlier than castrated or intact males. In this way, combining sex category, genetics and nutritional plans could be an important strategy for suppling Premium beef market with high quality and well-fished carcasses. The objective of the study was to evaluate two different finishing systems to produce carcass for Premium beef market in Brazil. A total of 148 crossbred heifers (Angus x Nellore), averaging 13 months and 407.5 ± 29.22 kg of body weight were finished in two systems: feedlot or semi confinement (pasture plus concentrate). In the feedlot, the animals fed 2.5% of live weight of a diet composed by corn silage, dry corn, soybean meal and minerals. In semi confinement, heifers were grazed in a pasture of *Brachiaria brizantha* cv. Marandu and feed supplemented with 2% of live weight of a ration composed by corn grain, soybean meal, cottonseed and minerals. At slaughter the carcasses were evaluated for hot carcass weight (HCW), maturity (MAT, 1 to 15 points, 1 the youngest and 15 the oldest), subcutaneous fat distribution (SFD, 1 to 5, 1 absent and 5 uniform) and back fat thickness at 12th rib (BFT). The experimental design was completely randomized. The data were analyzed by procedure Univariate of SAS and means compared by the Tukey test. The carcasses of heifers finished on feedlot and semi confinement differed ($P < 0.05$), respectively, for HCW (216.04 kg and 203.29 kg), maturity (13.06 and 14.36) and SFT (7.22 mm and 4.59 mm). There were no differences ($P > 0.05$) for SFD (3.37 and 3.21). Feedlot-finishing system produced heifers with heavier and well-finished carcass compared to semi confinement. Heifers finished in semi-confinement system were less mature physiologically, reflecting in the thin back fat thickness when compared to feedlot-finished animals. The feedlot-finish system provided heifers carcasses that best fit Premium beef market in Brazil.

Keywords: premium beef, production systems, semi confinement, young females

Acknowledgments: Fundect, Embrapa Gado de Corte, UEMS, Vermelho Grill Carnes e cortes

Promoção e Realização:



Apoio Institucional:



Organização:

