

Efficiency of nutrient utilization between Canchim and Charolais cattle.C.M.Haddad\* and A.Manzano, EMBRAPA, Sao Carlos, Brazil.

Twelve Canchim (5/8 Charolais 3/8 Zebu) and twelve Charolais steers with age varying from 15. to 17 months, weighing about 237 kg were used in a digestibility trial (total collection of faeces). Animals were fed two rations with different energy levels: ration A (50% ground corn + 30% Rhodes hay + 20% cotton seed meal) and ration B (only Rhodes hay) in a 2 x 2 factorial design (two breeds x two rations). Samples of feed, orts, and faeces were analysed for dry matter, crude protein, crude fiber, fat and minerals by conventional scheme of Weende and for cell wall, cellulose, hemicellulose according Van Soest procedure. Results indicated that Canchim digested more efficiently DM (44,72 x 39,61), CF (37,96 x 33,51%), organic matter (46,19% x 41,63%), N free extract (47,33% x 43,06%), cell wall constituents (53,82% x 50,92%), cellulose (39,91% x 32,18%) and TDN (44,69% x 40,81%) than Charolais. No significant differences were detected between the two genotypes for crude protein (37,60% x 35,88%), and hemicellulose (66,41% x 68,20%), respectively for Canchim and Charolais. It was observed a significant interaction breed x ration for ether extract, since Canchim was more efficient than Charolais only in ration A.

KEY WORDS: Canchim, Charolais cattle efficiency nutrient utilization