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## G117 POSTER

### *IN VITRO* DEGRADATION RATES OF DWARF ELEPHANTGRASS CLONES ESTIMATED BY GAS PRODUCTION TECHNIQUE<sup>1</sup>

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The trial was carried out at Embrapa-CNPGL (Minas Gerais, Brazil), to evaluate the nutritive value of dwarf elephantgrass (*Pennisetum purpureum*) using the degradation rates estimated by gas production technique. Were evaluated two dwarf elephantgrass clones (CNPGL 92-198-7 and CNPGL 00-1-3) and two post-grazing conditions (residues of 30 and 50 cm), using a completely randomized design in a factorial arrangement (2 x 2), with three replications. The pasture was managed under rotational stocking, using 24 crossbred heifers, with average weight of 250 kg, adopting the criterion of luminous interception (95%). The kinetic parameters of *in vitro* gas production were estimated using the logistic model:  $V(t) = V_f / (1 + \exp [2.4 * c * (t - L)])$ , where V=gas volume produced up to time t,  $V_f$  (mL/g)=gas volume corresponding to complete substrate digestion,  $c(h^{-1})$ =degradation rate of fraction potentially degradable, L(h)=latency, t(h)=incubation time. The estimated values for the degradation rates for heights of 30 and 50 cm post-grazing residue were 0.0257 and 0.0237 for clone 92-198-7, and 0.0266 and 0.0224 for clone 00-1-3, respectively. Although the estimated values are close, the highest rates of degradation for clones managed with post-grazing residue of 30 cm, indicates the better forage quality. Therefore, the best post-grazing height for management of the clones is 30 cm.

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