

The usage of the *creep-feeding* and its effects on the calves' weight and wean and on the reproductive performance of the beef cows [1]

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ABSTRACT

The present research aimed to evaluate the effect of *creep-feeding* on the weight gain and concentrate's ingestion behaviour of the calves and the impact on the productive and reproductive performance of the primiparous cows (Experiment 1) and the multiparous cows (Experiment II). The treatments in each experiment were T1: cows that were feeding male calves on the *creep-feeding* system; T2: cows that were feeding female calves on the *creep-feeding* system; T3 cows that were feeding male calves on a system without *creep-feeding* and T4 cows that were feeding female calves on a system without *creep-feeding*. In Experiment I the *creep-feeding* system promoted a cows live weight (PV) and body condition's score (CC) higher ($P < 0.01$) than the cows in the system with no *creep-feeding* (412 kg and 3.94 vs. 399 kg and 3.77, respectively) in the end of the experiment. It was noticed on the cows, in the *creep-feeding* system, a gain of the daily average weight (GMD) higher ($P < 0.01$) than the group of cows where the male and female calves haven't had the supplement (0.549 vs. 0.449 kg/day). The feeding system and the sex of the calves had no influence on the percentage of the pregnancy's repetition of the primiparous cows (76.5%). The *creep-feeding* system promoted a higher live weight to the wean and higher GMD ($P < 0.01$) to male and female calves comparing to these categories in the system with no *creep-feeding* (194 kg and 0.843 kg/day vs. 174 kg and 0.701 kg/day, respectively). In the evaluation of the ingestive behaviour of concentrate it was noticed a higher ($P < 0.01$) average time on the concentrate's consume (TCT) to the male calves compared to the female ones. It wasn't found any difference ($P > 0.05$) on the daily number of access to the feeding place (NAT) an percentage of female and male calves having concentrate (PAT). In Experiment II, it there was not observed a significant difference ($P > 0.05$) to GMD and CC of the cows during the experiment, due to the feeding system and the sex of the calves (0.265 kg/day and 3.15, respectively). The feeding system and the sex of the calves had no influence on the percentage of pregnancy's repetition on multiparous cows, showing an average of 76.5%. The feeding system and the sex of the calves had significant differences ($P < 0.01$) to PV at wean (195, 184, 172 and 165 kg to T1, T2, T3 e T4, respectively) and to GMD (0.849, 0.789, 0.705 and 0.637 kg/day to T1, T2, T3 and T4, respectively). In evaluation of the calves' concentrate's ingestive behaviour from multiparous cows a significant difference wasn't observed ($P > 0.05$) between sex to TCT, NAT and PAT.

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