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Carcass yield and beef cuts from steers and heifers from different genetic groups

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The use of specialized breeds in the meat production systems is a strategy that can be used to increase the productivity The objective of this study was to evaluate cold carcass yield, hindquarter yield, forequarter yield, striploin and rump cover of 96 steers and heifers, offspring of Bonsmara, Brangus or Canchim and Nellore, ½ Angus + ½ Nellore or ½ Senepol + ½ Nellore cows from Embrapa Southeast Livestock, São Carlos, SP. Animals were feedlot-finished in individual pens for a period of approximately 100 days receiving a diet with 55% corn silage and 45% concentrate, composed of 13.1% of crude protein and 71% of total digestible nutrients. The animals were slaughtered in a commercial abattoir when reached a minimum of 5mm backfat thickness measured by ultrasound measuremts, and live weight of 528 kg for steers and 496 kg for heifers. After 24 h, the half-carcasses were weighed and cut between the 12th and 13th ribs resulting in the primal cuts (hindquarter and forequarter). The hindquarter were separated in sawcut and spare ribs. From the saw cuts the rump cover and striploin were obtained. Statistical analysis were developed using the GLM procedure of SAS, considering the effects of genetic groups of bulls and cows, gender and interactions. Means were compared by SNK test (5%) when the F test was significant. Cold carcass yield, forequarter yield, hindquarter yield and striploin were not affected ($p>0.05$) by bulls and cows genetic groups, and the averages were 52.5%, 61.4%, 38.6%, and 6.10%, respectively. Heifers showed higher value for hindquarter (62.3%) than steers (60.7%), The rump cover yield was not affected ($p>0.05$) by gender. However, it was affected by bulls and cows genetic groups. Animals offspring of Canchim bulls showed lower rump cover yield (0.85%) than animals offspring of Brangus and Bonsmara bulls (0.91% and 0.89%, respectively). On the other side, animals produced by ½ Senepol + ½ Nellore cows showed higher rump cover yield (0.93%) than animals offspring of Nellore (0.84%) and ½ Angus + ½ Nellore (0.87%) cows. Results from the present study indicate that genetic groups of bulls and cows, and gender did not affect the cold carcass yield. Heifers show better hindquarter yield and steers show higher forequarter yield.

Keywords: Bonsmara, Brangus, Canchim, rump cover, striploin

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