

EVALUATION OF BREEDING STRATEGIES IN A CROSSBRED DAIRY CATTLE HERD RAISED ON A MEDIUM-INPUT PRODUCTION SYSTEM IN BRAZIL.

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Two breeding strategies (T = traditional *Bos taurus* x *Bos indicus* criss-crossing - 1978 to 1984 - and N = use of selected or progeny tested 1/2 to 7/8 *Bos taurus* x *Bos indicus* crossbred bulls - 1985 to 1999) were applied to a medium-input milk production system at the Embrapa Southeast Cattle, São Carlos, São Paulo, Brazil. Data (N = 1464) on milk yield (MY), lactation length (LL), calving interval (CI), dry period (DP) and MY per day of CI (MY/CI) were analyzed by the least-squares method with a mixed model including the effects of year, season and order of calving, genetic group, sex of calf, cause of drying-off and sire. Relative differences between the two breeding strategies (N-T) were: 41.7% for MY, 6.6% for LL, 12.6% for CI, 37.7% for DP and 61.6% for MY/CI.