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Evaluation of growth of Charolaise heifers and their crossbreds with Hereford and Simmental

Summary

The aim of the study was to evaluate the growth of Charolaise heifers and their crossbreds with the beef breeds Hereford and Simmental destined for breeding in extensive feeding conditions. The experimental material comprised Charolaise heifers and crossbreds from Hereford and Simmental dams sired by Charolaise. The animals were weighed at birth, at weaning, and at 22 months of age (on the completion of servicing). Additionally, basic conformation measurements were performed at weaning and at the age of 22 months. Body weight was converted to 210 days of age, as well as daily gains from birth to weaning and to 22 months of age, and from weaning to 22 months of age. The purebred heifers attained the highest mean body weight on weaning day converted to 210 days of age, and the best daily gains from birth to weaning and 22 months of age, as well as from weaning to 22 months of age. The highest daily gains during the period from weaning to 22 months of age, and consequently the highest body weight at the age of 22 months, were achieved by crossbred heifers from Simmental dams. The purebred heifers and crossbreds exhibited similar body measurements at weaning and at the age of 22 months. The differences were statistically insignificant.