

J. Häusler, S. Enzenhofer, B. Fürst- Walzl and A. Steinwider (2015):
2. Performance of heifers and steers in the suckling period and intensive fattening period (in German). Züchtungskunde, 87, (6), 391-412.

Summary

The influence of different lengths of suckling periods (180 days (group 1) and 270 days (group 2)) on Simmental suckler cows and their calves was the subject of a research project at the Agricultural Research and Education Centre Raumberg-Gumpenstein. The ration of the cows consisted of low quality hay and grass silage. All the calves were raised by their mothers. The heifers were slaughtered at a live weight of 500 kg and the steers were slaughtered at a weight of 580 kg. During the suckling period, the calves were fed with the milk from their dams as well as hay and a maximum of 1.5 kg concentrates. The ration of the fattening period consisted of hay, ad libitum maize silage and concentrates. The average amount of concentrates was about 45% of total dry matter intake. The experiment included three suckling and fattening periods. Simmental × Limousin crossbreds (1st suckling and fattening period) had average daily body weight gains of 1,184 g and 1,241 g and Simmental × Charolais crossbreds (> 1st suckling and fattening periods) had average daily body weight gains of 1,337 and 1,314 g per day. Among the Charolais crossings, the steers (1,405 g) differed significantly from the heifers (1,246 g). Among the Simmental × Limousin crossings were nearly the same daily body weight gains. The feed and energy requirements per kg growth in the fattening periods were at the same level in both groups and ranged from 5.8 to 6.7 kg forage dry matter and 66.1 to 77.0 MJ ME (Megajoule metabolisable energy) respectively. Neither group nor sex had a significant effect. There was also no significant effect on the carcass performance. The longer calving interval in the 2nd suckling and fattening period of group 2 had an effect on calculated land requirement per fattening unit (1.25 ha). One fattening unit needed about 1 ha land in the 1st suckling and fattening period and in the 2nd periods of group 1. Different sex did not affect the land requirement per fattening unit but showed an effect on land requirement per kg carcass weight. Steers needed about 5.0 m² (1st lactation) and 3.9 m² (> 1st lactation) less calculated land than heifers.

Keywords: Suckler cow, fattening and carcass performance, calculated land requirement

Zitat (Deutsch):

J. Häusler, S. Enzenhofer, B. Fürst- Walzl und A. Steinwider (2015): Auswirkungen unterschiedlicher Absetztermine auf extensiv gefütterte Fleckviehmutterkühe und deren Kälber
2. Mitteilung: Entwicklung der Jungrinder in der Saugeperiode und in der intensiven Ausmastperiode. Züchtungskunde, 87, (6), 391-412.