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Living and slaughtering performances of Piemontese young bulls reared according to the organic farming method

Aim

Is it possible to **feed fattening Piemontese young bulls** in respect of the **organic** production method (Reg. CE 1804/1999), particularly regarding the rule that **at least 60% of D.M.** in the daily diet must be **by fresh, dried or ensiled forages?**

Feed consumption

age (months)	hay (kg/d)		concentrate (kg/d)		kg DM/d		UFV/d	
	T	O	T	O	T	O	T	O
8-10	1,8	3,5	3,2	2,2	4,3	5,0	4,0	3,9
10-12	2,0	4,7	4,0	2,7	5,2	6,4	4,9	4,9
12-14	2,1	5,5	4,6	3,1	5,8	7,4	5,5	5,6
14-16	2,6	5,3	4,4	2,9	6,1	7,5	5,6	5,7
16-18	2,0	5,5	6,8	2,7	7,6	7,8	7,8	6,0
mean	2,1	5,0	4,8	2,7	6,0	6,9	5,8	5,3
total	6,5-7,0						1764	1554
							-12%	



Performances

during the last month of fattening

	T	O
live weight (kg)	499	455
ADG (kg/d)	0,63	0,33
consumption		
hay (kg/d)	1,9	4,8
concentrate (kg/d)	7,6	2,7
DM (kg/d)	8,3	7,3
energy (UFV/d)	(-1/3 by forages) 8,8	(-2/3 by forages) 5,8
FC rate (UFV/kg l.w.)	(-1/6 by forages) 13,6	(-1/2 by forages) 16,8
price (Euro/kg l.w.)	3,20	n.q.

Action

- to **slaughter** the **traditional** group and
- to **complete** the **fattening** period of the **organic** group not according to the organic rule of 60% D.M. by forages but like the traditional group (1 month of adaptation and 3 months of traditional feeding).

Other possibilities

- to study **different** diet, with more energetic forages (as maize silage);
- to **improve** the **marketing** and the **selling price** of organic cattle and meat (difficult for Piemontese breed, as price are already high).

Slaughtering performances

	T	O
trial length (d)	579	649
live weight (kg)	530	580
fully stomachs and guts (kg)	63	68
empty stomachs and guts (kg)	21	24
offal (kg)	13	16
hot carcass (kg)	353	398
hot dressing (%)	66,6	68,8
net dressing (%)	72,3	74,5
carcass grading (SEUROP)		
conformation (scale 1-18)	2,1	3,3
fatness (scale 1-15)	4,7	3,9

Conclusion

For the **Piemontese** young bulls the adoption of the **organic rearing method**, according to the present rules and the normal length of the fattening period, **does not allow to obtain a marketable product**: in fact, even if their live weight is adequate, the **animals do not show** a proper **muscular development** and **fat cover**