SESSION 26 (jalvarezr@aragon.es)

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Factors affecting the peripartal stress response in beef cows

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Hypothesis

Calf management and genotype may be factors affecting the adrenal response around parturition.

CONCLUSIONS

✓ **Faecal glucocorticoid metabolites (GM) allow detecting the post-partum adaptative challenge and a potential stress of restricted suckling. However, they did not differ between breeds.**

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Animals

▪ **Winter-calving beef cows** (live-weight 590 kg, BCS= 2.5, n=14, 7 Parda de Montaña and 7 Pirenaica) assigned within breed to restricted suckling once-daily (**RS1**) or ad libitum (**AS**) from the day after calving.

Measurements and analysis

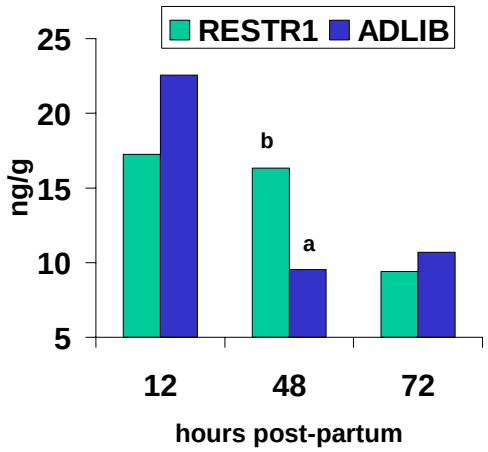
▪ Faecal samples were collected from the rectal ampulla of each cow at approximately 12, 48 and 72 h after delivery and freeze-dried to analyse glucocorticoid metabolites (**GM**) by RIA.

RESULTS

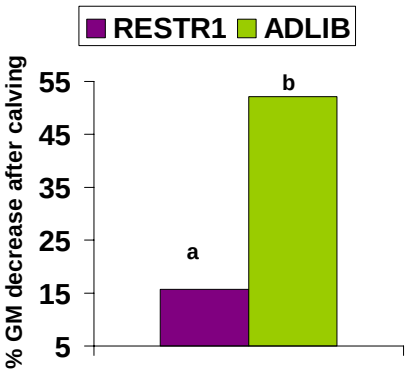
Breed effect:

• Faecal GM concentration was **similar in both genotypes** throughout the 3 days after calving (**mean 14.3 ng/g**, P>0.10).

Calf management x Time post-partum tendency (P=0.07):



Calf management tendency (P=0.09):



Within each parameter, different letter denote a trend for statistical difference (P<0.10).

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