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Use of monensin in lactating crossbred dairy cows (Holstein × Gyr) raised on tropical pastures with concentrate supplementation

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Highlights

- Monensin supplementation increased dietary *fiber digestibility*.
- Cows fed monensin *showed* lower nonesterified fatty acid (NEFA) in blood.
- Monensin could be beneficial to reduce fat mobilization in crossbred dairy cows.

Abstract

Monensin is a feed additive produced by a strain of *Streptomyces cinnamonensis* that has been used to improve milk production and feed efficiency by a mechanism linked to rumen fermentation of lactating dairy cows. Evaluation on performance, digestibility and blood parameters of crossbred dairy cows supplemented with monensin is still scarce. Thus, the objective of this study was to determine the effects of monensin supplementation on intake, digestibility of nutrients, lactational performance and blood parameters in crossbred dairy cows grazing tropical pasture subjected to rotational stocking and supplemented with concentrate. Sixteen crossbred Holstein-Gyr cows (initial

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