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Feeder design and concentrate presentation form in beef cattle

Effect of feeder design and concentrate presentation form on performance, carcass characteristics, and behavior of fattening Holstein bulls fed high-concentrate diets

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Highlights

- Bulls fed pellets in collective feeders had greater performance.
- Pellet form sustained better growths in calves around 200 kg of BW.
- During the growing period, offering pellet form in collective feeders improved efficiency.
- During the finishing period, pellet form reduced consumption and improved efficiency.
- During the finishing period, feeding meal in a single feeder did not reduce intake.

Abstract

The study objective was to evaluate the effect of feeder design and concentrate presentation form on performance, carcass characteristics, and animal behavior in fattening Holstein bulls fed high-concentrate diets. A total of 294 bulls (175 ± 6.5 kg of BW and 139 ± 0.7 days of age) were randomly allotted to one of 16 pens (18-19 bulls per pen) distributed in 2 barns (8 pens per barn). Each pen was assigned to one of 4 treatments following a 2 x 2 factorial arrangement of treatments: feeder design (collective vs. single) and concentrate presentation

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