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Title: Evaluation of the length of adaptation period for changeover and crossover nutritional experiments with cattle fed tropical forage-based diets

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Evaluation of the length of adaptation period for changeover and crossover nutritional experiments with cattle fed tropical forage-based diets

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Highlights

- Adaptation period is important for changeover experiments with ruminants
- We performed an experiment encompassing different diet changings with cattle
- Ruminal and fecal characteristics and voluntary intake were evaluated simultaneously
- Different characteristics demand different adaptation periods to be measured
- A 14-days adaptation period is recommended for digestion trials with cattle

ABSTRACT

It was evaluated the impact of the diet switch on nutritional characteristics and bacterial community composition in cattle fed tropical forage-based diet aiming to establish the minimal length of the adaptation period that could be applied to changeover or crossover design protocols. Twelve rumen-cannulated crossbreed (*B. taurus* × *B. indicus*) bovines were

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