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Influence of post-weaning feeding management of beef heifers on performance and physiological profiles through rearing and first lactation

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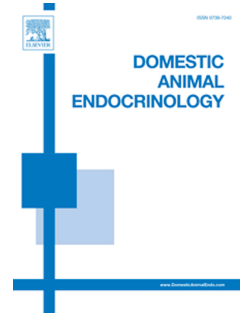
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1 **Influence of post-weaning feeding management of beef heifers on performance and**  
2 **physiological profiles through rearing and first lactation.**

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11 **ABSTRACT**

12 The aim of this study was to examine the effects of two post-weaning feeding  
13 management approaches (FEED: 0.8 [HIGH] vs. 0.6 [MOD] kg/d target ADG) on the  
14 performance of heifers of two beef breeds (BREED: Parda de Montaña [PA] vs. Pirenaica  
15 [PI]) calving at 2 yr. Twenty-five heifers previously creep-fed before weaning (6 mo) were  
16 assigned to two planes of nutrition from 6 to 15 mo of age. At 15 mo they were inseminated,  
17 and then received similar diets until weaning of their first calf (4 mo post-calving). Several  
18 parameters were measured to analyze growth and development (BW; ADG; size measures at  
19 6 mo, 15 mo, calving and weaning), performance at puberty and first breeding, and dam and  
20 calf performance in the first lactation (calving traits, ADG, milk yield). Metabolic (glucose,  
21 cholesterol, NEFA,  $\beta$ -hydroxybutyrate and urea) and endocrine status (IGF-I and leptin) were  
22 assessed in plasma samples collected every 3 mo from 6 mo to calving and monthly during  
23 lactation. No interaction between BREED and FEED was observed. Heifers from the HIGH  
24 feeding treatment had higher post-weaning ADG than those on the LOW diet. At 15 mo they  
25 had greater BW, heart girth and external pelvic area, but they did not differ thereafter. All

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