

Cover letter

We hereby present our article entitled “Production and economic viability of feedlot-finished beef cattle categories”, by Santos et al., to your journal.

For cattle raising to be an economically viable and competitive activity, among other factors, it is necessary to provide the animals with the conditions to exteriorize the maximum performance of their genetic potentialities by providing them a balanced, low-cost diet aiming to achieve the weight conditions for the earliest slaughter possible.

Producers from the *Cerrado* biome region typically do not have the habit of confining culling cows, as they are old, unappreciated animals, and thus finished on pasture and sold for a low price. Our study proposes to demonstrate whether it is viable to finish this category through comparisons with uncastrated steers.

The Brazilian literature lacks information on the productive comparison of the finishing of uncastrated steers and culling cows in the feedlot associated with their weight gains, arroba acquisition price, among other particular factors of each category.

In our study, the feedlot-finished beef cattle category did not affect the profitability of the system, although castrated steers provided higher revenues than culling cows. Thus, in a decision-making process, the producer may choose for both categories provided that this production system is used in the period during which feed is acquired for the animals at a lower price; the animals are purchased at the time of low prices paid per arroba; and the sale occurs in the period of high prices per arroba sold.

We would like to emphasize that our manuscript has not been submitted to any other journal.

This study has not been published before; it is an original work. The authors have approved its content and submission to *Acta Scientiarum Animal Sciences*.

Sincerely,

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