**Cover letter**

We hereby present our article, entitled “Feeding behavior of categories of feedlot-finished beef cattle in the Cerrado biome”, by Santos et al., to your journal.

The study of the animal behavior has played an important role in cattle farming, considering that the changes imposed by men can interfere with the production potential of animals.

Many researchers have used the study of feeding behavior to guide their studies with feedlot cattle. One of the decisive factors in the finishing of cattle in the feedlot is the determination of the category to be used, since each one of them has advantages and disadvantages when the weight gain, duration, compensatory gain, acquisition and sale price of the *arroba*, intake and digestibility of nutrients, and quality of meat and carcasses are rigorously evaluated. A category may also display better viability for a given region, but this effect may not be the same in another region. The animal category can significantly influence carcass characteristics and the yield of commercial cuts, in cattle. Cull cows reach the point of slaughter earlier, due to the compensatory gain, because this category typically enters the feedlot with a lower body condition score than males. This knowledge allows for a better planning of the activity (type of feeding, duration of the feedlot period, and sale period).

In our study, the feeding behavior was influenced by the cattle category. Therefore, the differences between categories indicate that investigating the feeding behavior is paramount to improving the dietary management of an animal category considering its particularities, thereby improving its feed efficiency and performance.

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

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

Sincerely,

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