

EFFECT OF PROTEIN ENRICHED MINERAL SALT ON BEEF PRODUCTION IN *Hemarthria altíssima* PASTURES

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This project has been carried out with the objective of evaluating the effect of protein supplementation on the performance of beef steers maintained in *Hemarthria* pastures during winter (May 5th through August 31st, 2000) at Estação Experimental Fazenda Modelo, IAPAR, Ponta Grossa - PR. Thirty six Canchim steers, with initial average age of 10 months and initial average weight of 190 kg were randomly allotted to the following treatments: Control - mineral salt only, commercial protein containing mineral salt, and on farm prepared protein containing mineral salt. The average intake (grams/animal/day) was 460, 250 and 70, respectively, for Commercial, on Farm and Control treatments. Animals were weighed at 28 day intervals after a period of 14 h without food. Average total gain (kg/animal) was superior (20,25 kg), ($P < 0,01$) for animals that received the on farm made mineral salt - protein mixture. Animals that received the Commercial mineral salt - protein mixture lost 2,08 kg during the control mineral salt last 13,67kg ($P < 0,01$).

Key Words: Performance, *Hemarthria altíssima* ex. Flórida, protein - mineral mix.