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Effect of grazing or indoor feeding on animal performances and carcass and meat quality of Simmental or Angus X Simmental Heifers

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SUMMARY

The effects of feeding system and breed type on performance, carcass and meat quality of **Angus X Simmental** and **Simmental** heifers were examined in a two factor (genotype and rearing system) experiment.

The animals were kept from an initial weight of 200 kgs either indoors with maize silage available ad libitum together with 1.0kg concentrate per day (T1) or at pasture for two seasons incorporating a winter feeding period with restricted energy supply (T2) or as T3 but with a 90 day indoor finishing regime, read as T1 (T3).

Mean slaughter weights were 521 kgs for Simmental and 477 for Angus X Simmental heifers.

Average daily live weight gains for the treatments were 1071g , 652g and 731g respectively with no significant differences for breed type.

Feeding regimes had more effect on carcass and meat quality characteristics than from breed type.

Heifers on T1 were considered to contain more fat that those on T2 in all objective and subjective measurements for fatness and were given higher marks for the subjective criteria evaluated by a test panel and for colour.

The marks achieved by the animals on T3 approached those on T1.

Angus X Simmental heifers had higher intra muscular fat contents in the mid and higher scores for tenderness than pure Simmental Heifers and this was more pronounced on T2 and T3.

Beef production systems should therefore be adjusted increasingly for breed and sex taking into consideration feeding systems based on the choice of basic ration and available energy, and with increased regard to carcass and meat quality.