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## **EVALUATION OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TEMPERAMENT, TIME SPENT AT THE FEED TROUGH AND WEIGHT GAIN OF CONFINED BEEF CATTLE**

Author: Soares, Désirée Ribeiro; Schwartzkopf-Genswein, Karen; Sant'anna, Aline Cristina; Valente, Tiago da Silva; Rueda, Paola Moretti; Cyrillo, Joslaine Noely dos Santos Gonçalves; Paranhos da Costa, Mateus José Rodrigues

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The aim of this study was to address the association of beef cattle temperament with the time spent at the feed trough (TST) and weight gain (WG) in feedlots. TST was monitored for 10 d (0700 to 1800) using instantaneous scan sampling conducted at 5 min intervals. Fifty three bulls (35 Nelore and 18 crossbreed with 30 + 3 months of age on average) were observed in one group in a feedlot. Temperament was assessed by measuring flight distance (FD: proximity (m) to which a stock person could come to an individual animal before it would move away) and flight speed (FS: speed (m/s) at which the animal exited a handling chute). The average WG was obtained with two weights, one in the beginning and other in the end of the fattening period (54 d). The Pearson's correlation coefficients were estimated for all variables. TST was significantly correlated to FD ( $r = -0.51$ ) and FS ( $r = -0.37$ ). However, there was no correlation ( $P > 0.05$ ) of the WG with temperament indicators (FS:  $r = -0.03$  and FD:  $r = 0.09$ ), nor with TST ( $r = 0.10$ ). Based on these results we conclude that in spite of less reactive animals spending more time at trough, there is no association with weight gain. This may be explained by the fact that greater time at the feed trough does not necessarily mean the animals are consuming more feed. Future studies should focus on understanding the relationship between temperament and feed intake.

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