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LACK OF THE EXPRESSIVE ASSOCIATIONS BETWEEN TEMPERAMENT, AGGRESSION AND WEIGHT GAIN IN FINISHING WEIGHT FEEDLOT CATTLE.

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The aim of this study was to determine the relationship between temperament, aggressive behavior and average daily gain (ADG), in feedlot cattle. Behavioral observations were conducted for 10 d (0700 to 1800) using a continuous sampling method. Fifty–3 bulls (35 Nelore and 18 Nelore cross with an average age of 30 ± 3 mo.) were observed in one feedlot pen. The frequencies of 2 types of aggressive behavior were recorded: displacement (DISP; physical contact where the initiator pushed with his head, horn or body resulting in a change in the receivers position) and non-displacement (NDISP; as described above, without any change of the receivers position). Temperament was assessed, in the pen during at weights registers on d 1, d 29 and d 54 at the end of fattening period, using 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). Average daily gain was calculated using animal weights obtained on d 1 and d 54 at the end of the fattening period and Pearson correlation coefficients were estimated for all variables. There were significant positive correlations ($P < 0.05$) between FD and FS ($r = 0.58$), DISP and NDISP ($r = 0.74$) and negative correlations between NDISP and FS ($r = -0.29$). No correlations ($P > 0.05$) were observed between NDISP and FD ($r = -0.17$), DISP and FD ($r = -0.06$), DISP and FS ($r = -0.13$), or between ADG and any of the other variables (NDISP: $r = 0.07$, DISP: $r = 0.03$, FD: $r = 0.09$ and FS: $r = -0.03$). Based on these results we conclude that there is no expressive association between temperament, intra-specific aggression, or ADG.

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