SEXUAL PRECOCITY OF NELLORE BULLS THAT ARE OFFSPRING OF SUPER PRECOCIOUS, PRECOCIOUS AND NORMAL COWS UNDER EXTENSIVE FARMING CONDITIONS

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The objective of this study was to determine if mothers classified as super precocious (M1 - challenged in the breeding season from 12 to 16.9 months of age), and precocious (M2 - challenged in the breeding season from 17 to 23.9 months of age) produce more precocious bulls that females classified as normal (M3 - challenged in the breeding season over 24 months of age). There were used 21,186 animals with an average of 21.29 ± 1.77 months of age, evaluated by breeding soundness examination in the period of 1999 to 2008, where 2,019, 6,059 and 13,108 were children of M1, M2 and M3 females, respectively. The animals were classified as suitable for reproduction, suitable for reproduction in a natural mating system, unfit for breeding and discarded, by breeding soundness examination. To compare the averages for each category of mother within the andrological classes individually, it were used the chi-square with 5% probability of error, considering the effect of the year, month of birth, and farm. There were reported 67.26, 67.22 and 64.16% of bulls considered as suitable for breeding, and 19.71, 19.46 and 21.90% unfit for breeding, respectively for M1, M2, and M3 mother classes, being different. There was no difference (p > 0.05) for frequency of animals suitable for breeding in a natural mating system among the three mother categories (average of 8.87, 9.31 and 9.19%, respectively). For discarded animals there was observed difference only between the category of precocious and normal females, with 4.01 and 4.75%, respectively (p < 0.05). Differences were recorded by between the years, months of birth and farm in relation to breeding soundness of animals. It was concluded that bulls offspring of super precocious and precocious cows had higher percentage of approval in breeding soundness examination that bulls offspring of normal cows, indicating that the selection for females precocity contributed to increase the sexual precocity of herd in relation to sexual maturity of bulls, although it was no difference between mother categories when comparing the biometrics, physical and morphological semen aspects and body growth.

Keywords: Beef cattle, breeding soundness examination, sexual precocity