

ABSTRACT

Influence of production system on carcass characteristics of F1 Wagyu × Angus steers and heifers

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American Wagyu × Angus steers (n = 15) and heifers (n = 26) were finished to typical Japanese market weight and degree of finish using two different feeding methods. The first method (deferred) consisted of two growing/finishing phases: a forage-based diet for approximately 8 months followed by a high concentrate diet fed ad libitum for an additional 8 months while the second finishing method (linear) was designed to produce a linear rate of gain for the entire 16 months that the cattle were on feed. Even though there were substantial differences in daily weight gain ($P < 0.05$) within the two growing/finishing phases, total weight gain for the entire 16 months was not different between the two feeding methods ($P > 0.05$). Cattle produced by the linear growth method were superior to deferred growth cattle for carcass weight (as estimated by cold left side weight), rib thickness, dressing percentage, marbling score, fat color, fat luster, fat quality, as well as in scores for meat color, brightness, firmness and texture ($P < 0.05$). Fat thickness was not affected by treatment ($P > 0.05$). These data indicate that the linear method of production is more consistent with producing carcasses for the Japanese beef market.