

ABSTRACT

Influence of vitamin A on the quality of beef from the Tajima strain of Japanese Black cattle

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Influence of vitamin A on the beef quality of the Tajima strain of Japanese Black cattle was studied. Marbling scores were correlated with serum vitamin A concentrations just before slaughter ($r = -0.38$). The mean marbling score of the low vitamin A group that were not supplemented with vitamin A after 15 months of age was significantly higher than that of the group supplemented with high vitamin A. However, there was no significant difference in the marbling scores between the group that were not given vitamin A after 23 months of age and the high vitamin A supplemented group. These results suggest that vitamin A supplementation affects carcass marbling only if given before 23 months of age, in these cattle.