

Summary

Urea content in milk is being evaluated as a potential indicator of legume consumption by cows grazing pastures of *Brachiaria dictyoneura* and *Andropogon gayanus* alone and in association with *Centrosema acutifolium* and *C. macrocarpum* CIAT 5713.

Results showed that the level of urea in the milk was higher in associated pastures (19.6 mg%) than in pastures alone (6.7 mg%), in

A. gayanus pastures (8.0 mg%) than in *B. dictyoneura* (5.2 mg%), and in the association with *C. acutifolium* (23.8 mg%) than with *C. macrocarpum* (15.3 mg%). Likewise, the level was lower on the first grazing day (12.9 mg%) than on the third (16.4 mg%) and seventh (16.5 mg%). These results suggest that the level of urea in the milk can be a good marker for determining legume consumption by grazing animals.