ID: 145 Productivity impact of the different technological strategies designed for livestock production in the Basaltic Region of Uruguay: rearing and fattening sub systems

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Within the last 10 years context in which livestock production systems had to adapt to the new scenarios, framers had to intensify their systems in order to keep their business profitable. This was especially so in rearing and fattening operations, where the main intensification tools were artificial pastures and animal supplementation.

Four different strategies were outlined to evaluate its productivity impact on commercial systems, focused on rearing and/or fattening productive systems. Each strategy is based on how livestock production was seen in the past in the one hand and how it can be thought of in the present.

a) **Past model (PAST):** Exclusively natural grassland-based system.

b) **Oversown pastures (OVSP):** Oversown pastures are included in the productive scheme (birsdfoot trefoil + white clover) and mostly used in springtime and autumn.

c) **Artificial pastures + natural grasslands and supplementation (AP+NG&S)**: Rearing is held on natural grasslands combined with energetic supplementation, and fattening is held on high performance artificial pastures (perennial grasses + birsdfoot trefoil + white clover).

d) **Artificial pastures and supplementa tion + natural grasslands (AP&S+NG)**: High performance artificial pastures (perennial grasses + birsdfoot trefoil + white clover) combined with energetic supplementation, both during rearing and fattening phases, with the exception of summertime, where NG are utilised.

Some conclusions of this modeling are:

a) Slaughter age reduces as intensification increases.

b) On one end, PAST reaches slaughter weight with over 4 years of steers´ age, while on the other end AP&S+NG slaughter age is achieved with 24-26 months.

c) Not only does the rearing and fattening phases accelerate with increasing intensification, but also overall productivity dramatically raises (kg/ha).