Characterization of intensive beef production system of North East Italy

G. **Cesaro**, E. **Sturaro**, M. **De Marchi**, G. **Bittante**, L. **Gallo**
DAFNAE, University of Padova, Italy - *giacomo.cesaro@studenti.unipd.it*

INTRODUCTION

- The Veneto region (North East Italy) accounts for over 70% of national cattle meat supply
- Young bulls are imported mainly from France and finished using total mixed rations based on maize silage and concentrates
- Although beef production in north Italy can be considered as distinguishing within European beef production scenario, benchmarks concerning performance and feeding traits are still scarcely known

AIM

Provide reference values on main productive characteristics of intensive young bulls production system of north Italy.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

- 17 herds
- 237 batches (i.e. a group of young bulls homogeneous for genotype, fattening period and diets) taken as reference unit
- For each batch weights, daily intake, and diet formulation and composition collected
- ANOVA including effects of herd, genotype, season of arrival and initial BW class within genotype

RESULTS

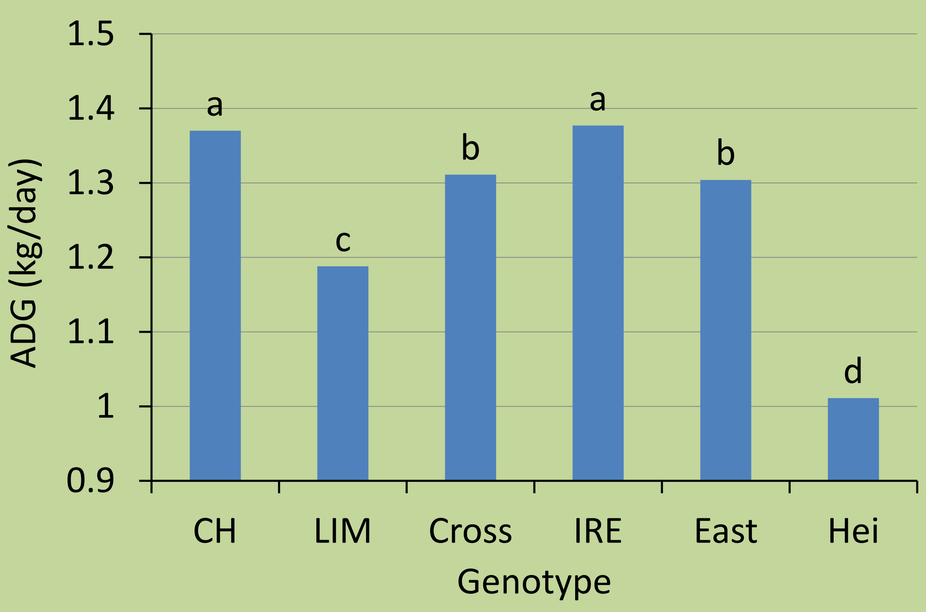
Table 1. Descriptive statistics for performance traits.

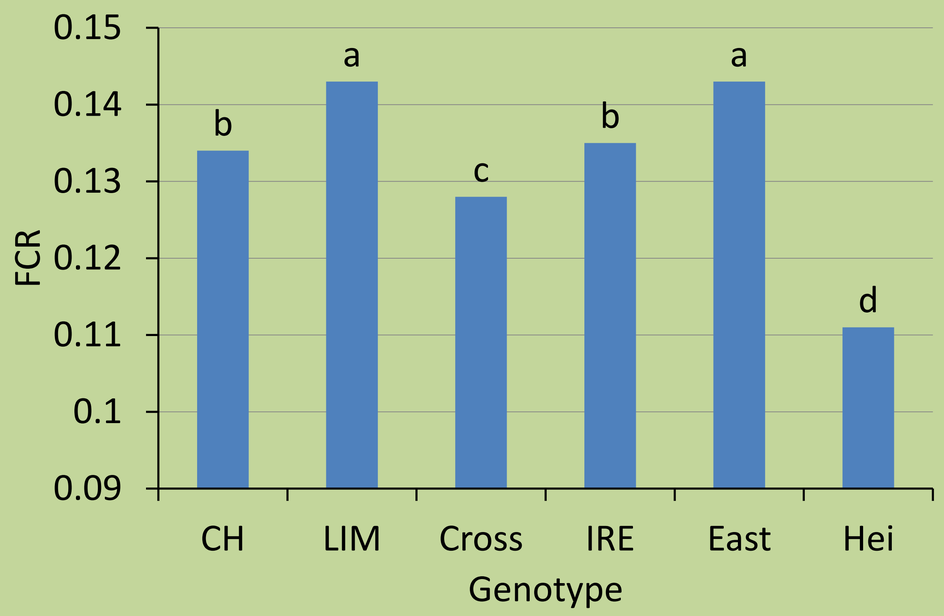
	Mean	Min	Max	SD
Initial BW, kg	369.91	272	458	42.67
Final BW, kg	670.93	468	772	77.61
Fattening period, d	228.54	151	325	20.60
Average Daily Gain ADG, kg/d	1.31	0.68	1.74	0.17
FCR	0.13	0.09	0.17	0.02
DMI, kg	9.75	7.00	11.72	1.11

Table 2. Average chemical composition of the diets.

	Mean	Min	Max	SD
DM	41.37	30.29	52.91	5.60
CP, % DM	14.20	11.48	16.92	1.02
EE, % DM	3.40	2.49	5.24	0.57
Ash, % DM	6.01	4.80	7.16	0.38
NDF, % DM	32.25	24.31	38.23	3.00
P, % DM	0.18	0.26	0.33	0.06
Starch, % DM	33.02	22.09	42.74	4.52
NSC, % DM	44.03	34.88	53.05	3.66

Figure 1. Effect of genotype on ADG and FCR. Charolais (CH), Limousin (LIM), French crossbred (Cross), Ireland crossbred (IRE), Eastern Europe breeds (East), Heifers (Hei).





CONCLUSIONS

- Veneto beef cattle production system appears standardized for management and feeding practices
- Generally herds showed growth performance traits of high levels
- Needed to identify environmental sustainability indicators for this production system

Research supported by Veneto Region (PSR SUSTAINBEEF project). Authors acknowledge AZOVE for technical support .