

Maternal and reproductive performance of Brahman x Angus, Senepol x Angus, and Tuli x Angus cows in the subtropics^{1,2,3}

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To determine the maternal and reproductive performance of F₁ cows in the subtropics, 42 Brahman x Angus, 34 Senepol x Angus, and 50 Tuli x Angus cows were bred to Angus bulls to calve first and subsequently bred to Charolais bulls to calve as 3- to 8-year-olds. Age at first calving did not differ among crossbred cows. Angus-sired calf birth weights were heavier ($P < 0.01$) from Senepol x Angus than either Brahman x Angus or Tuli x Angus cows. Weaning weights of Angus-sired calves were heavier ($P < 0.01$) from Brahman x Angus (469.7 lb) than either Senepol x Angus (428.8 lb) or Tuli x Angus (421.3 lb) cows. As 3- to 8-year-old cows, calf birth weights were heavier ($P < 0.05$) from Senepol x Angus compared with Brahman x Angus but not Tuli x Angus cows. Weaning weights of Charolais-sired calves were heaviest ($P < 0.05$) from Brahman x Angus cows (591.6 lb), lightest from Tuli x Angus cows (513.5 lb), and intermediate from Senepol x Angus cows (539.0 lb). Calf crop born and calf crop weaned were lowest ($P < 0.05$) for Senepol x Angus cows (76.9 and 70.2%) and did not differ between Brahman x Angus (89.0 and 86.1%) and Tuli x Angus (94.7 and 86.5%) cows. Tuli x Angus cows tended ($P < 0.10$) to have a lower percentage of unassisted births and lower ($P < 0.10$) calf survival to weaning than Brahman x Angus cows but not Senepol x Angus cows. As 3- to 8-year-olds, weaning weight per cow exposed was greatest ($P < 0.05$) for Brahman x Angus (515.2 lb), least ($P < 0.05$) for Senepol x Angus (380.6 lb), and intermediate ($P < 0.05$) for Tuli x Angus (460.0 lb) cows. Also as 3- to 8-year-olds, efficiency (205-d calf weight per 100 kg of cow exposed) was similar for Brahman x Angus (42.2) and Tuli x Angus cows (40.7), and both were greater ($P < 0.01$) than for Senepol x Angus cows (33.8). These data indicate that, in the subtropics, maternal and reproductive performance of Tuli x Angus cows, but not Senepol x Angus cows, was comparable to Brahman x Angus cows, except for lower calf survivability and weaning weight.

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