GENETIC PARAMETERS OF A BRAZILIAN BEEF *Bos taurus* x *Bos indicus* COMPOSITE, ESTIMATED THROUGH THREE MODELS. J. B. S. Ferraz*, G.B. Mourão, J. P. Eler, J.C.C. Balieiro, E.C.M. Mattos. USP/FZEA/GMA – Cx. Postal 23, 13635-900 Pirassununga, SP, Brazil. www.usp.br/fzea/gma, jbferraz@usp.br

(Co)variance components of growth traits of the beef *Bos taurus* x *Bos indicus* composite Montana Tropical program, were estimated by three models that approach adjustment to heterozigosity, to suggest the best model. Models included contemporary groups, class of age of dam, outcrossing percentages for direct and maternal effects and additive genetic breed direct and maternal effects as covariate (RM); *R* = same as in RM, but without additive maternal breed effects; *H* = Same as in RM, but not considering any additive breed effect. Both $R^2$ values and consistency of genetic parameters, indicate the more complex model (RM), that considers maternal and individual additive genetic breed effect lead to best estimates when compared to other models. Model $R$ seems to overestimate (co)variance components.