

Effect of meat meal content in multinutritional blocks on voluntary intake and digestibility in lambs fed low quality hays

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Abstract

To evaluate the effect of adding meat meal in multinutritional blocks (MNB) on digestibility and voluntary intake of the different fractions of the ration, a trial was carried out, using a completely randomized design. Twenty five cross-bred lambs (12 - 18 kg liveweight-LW) were selected. The animals were housed in metabolic stalls and assigned to five treatments: T0: *Brachiaria humidicola* hay ad libitum + mineral mix, T1: hay ad libitum + MNB with 0% of meat meal (MM), ad libitum, T2: hay ad libitum + MNB with 4% of MM, ad libitum, T3: hay ad libitum + MNB with 8% of MM ad libitum and T4: hay ad libitum + MNB with 12% OF MM, ad libitum. The hay intake (HI), relative intake of hay (RIH), MNB intake (BI), relative intake of MNB (RIB), dry matter intake (DMI = HI + BI), relative intake of dry matter (RIDM), organic matter intake (OMI), relative intake of organic matter (RIOM) and the digestibilities of DM (DMD) and OM (OMD) were analyzed. No statistical differences were detected for HI, RIH, BI and RIB. The OMI ($P<0.05$), RIDM and RIOM ($P<0.01$) were statistically different between treatments. Values obtained for RIH, RIB, RIDM and RIOM were: 2.73, 3.11, 2.98, 3.07 and 2.85 % LW; 0, 1.22, 1.09, 1.48 and 1.39% LW; 379, 617, 651, 658 and 642 g/animal/d, 2.73, 4.33, 4.07, 4.55 and 4.25% LW and 2.65, 3.87, 3.64, 3.98 and 3.76% LW for T0, T1, T2, T3 y T4, respectively. Statistical differences were detected for DMD ($P<0.05$), but not for OMD. Values obtained for both variables were: 39.4, 47.4, 42.4, 43.8 and 50.7% and 42.2, 47.3, 43.9, 43.2 and 48.6% for T0, T1, T2, T3 and T4, respectively.

Key words: Multinutritional blocks, voluntary intake, digestibility, lambs, meat meal, hay.

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