

EFFECT OF USING SHADING ON SHEEP PERFORMANCE IN SUMMER SEASON



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1. Objectives

This study aimed to investigate effect of shading to reduce heat stress effect on feed intake, nutrients digestibility and rumen liquor parameters.

2. Introduction

High ambient temperature, high direct and indirect solar radiation, and humidity are environmental stressing factors that impose strain on animals. Some practical measures that are applicable under extensive conditions, such as provision of shade shelter, are suggested (Nissim, 2000).

3. Materials and methods

- Twelve Barki lambs weighed 50 ± 1.5 KG.
- Lambs were divided into two groups; un-shaded group (Control) and shaded group
- lambs in two groups were fed on concentrate feed mixture at 2% of their body weight and fed sorghum grass ad Lib.

4. Results

Table 1: Effect of shading on feed intake, digestibility and feeding value

Item	Experimental animals		Sig.
	Un-shading	Shading	
DM intake, g/h/day			
Concentrate	872.9	918.8	*
Roughage	586.4	612.12	*
Total	1459.3	1530.9	*
Roughage ratio	40.1	40.0	NS
Nutrients digestibility, %			
DM	72.69	78.61	*
OM	77.25	82.11	*
CP	75.78	76.27	NS
CF	53.17	69.0	*
EE	68.56	79.22	*
NFE	66.92	70.83	*
Feeding value, %			
TDN	60.63	66.86	*
DCP	8.41	8.46	NS

5. Conclusion

It could be concluded that applying shading:

- Increased feed intake.
- Increased digestibility and feeding value.
- Enhanced rumen activity.

