



Abstract # : 16488

Post-weaning growth of lambs grazing natural pastures supplemented with protein concentrates



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Introduction

- In Uruguay, grazed native pastures are the main source of nutrients for sheep.
- Lambs born in spring, and weaned at three months, start grazing in summer when native pastures present low protein contents.

Objective

To study the effect of supplementing different levels of soybean meal and sunflower supplementation on growth rate of lambs grazing natural pastures in the summer-fall season

Results

Materials and Methods

- ✓ 90 Corriedale 3 months old weaned lambs
- ✓ All lambs in one paddock of native pastures, 10 lambs ha⁻¹, two blocks, 3 rep./ treat.
- ✓ Treatments:
 - Continuous grazing (C)
 - C + Soybean meal 100 g lamb⁻¹d⁻¹
 - C + Soybean meal 200 g lamb⁻¹d⁻¹
 - C + Soybean meal 300 g lamb⁻¹d⁻¹
 - C + Sunflower meal 270 g lamb⁻¹d⁻¹
- ✓ Experimental period: 94 d, lambs were weighed every fifteen days.
- ✓ Final body weight and average daily gains were analyzed (PROC GLM, SAS; Tukey test) in a completely randomized block design

	Liveweight, kg		ADG, kg d ⁻¹
	Initial	Final	overall period
Control	20.0	26.0 d	0.058 d
SBM, g lamb d			
100	20.4	29.1 c	0.104 bc
200	20.8	30.8 b	0.112 ab
300	20.5	32.9 a	0.133 a
SFM, 270 g lamb d	20.7	28.2 c	0.086 c

a, b, c, d : P < 0.01

Conclusion . SBM appeared as a more effective supplement than SFM to improve growth in lambs .