

CONSTRUINDO SABERES, FORMANDO PESSOAS E TRANSFORMANDO A PRODUÇÃO ANIMAL

BIOMETRIC MEASURES, CUTS YIELDS AND NON-CARCASS COMPONENTS OF SHEEPS FED WITH DEHYDRATED PASSION FRUIT PEEL

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Sheep production is a prominent activity in Brazilian livestock and it is an important source of animal protein. In order to guarantee the supply stabilization of sheep production in the market, is extremely important the development of nutritional, reproductive and management technologies. In view of this demand the research were carried out and the assay was implemented at the Moura Campus Experimental, laboratory of Ruminants, Department of Animal Jequitinhonha e Mucuri – Curvelo, MG. Twenty Santa Inez mixed breed, males sheeps were analysed. All allotted in a randomized block design with four treatments and five replications. Sheeps were managed in confinement and fed four total diets, with four levels of Tifton 85 hay replaced for passion fruit (*Passiflora edulis* f. *Flavicarpa*) residue: 0% (control); 20%; 40% e 60% of replacements. The rations provided and the leftovers were sampled for further analysis, and the supply adjusted daily to 20% leftovers. The assay lasted 63 days, with 14 days of adaptation and 49 days data collection. Biometric measurements were performed, before slaughtering, at animals under correct conditions of approval. After evisceration and skinning the left half-carcass was weighed and subdivided into commercial cuts: loin, palette, shank, carré and breast / diaper. The non-carcass components were weighed: rumen / reticulum, omasum, abomasum, small intestine, large intestine, trachea / esophagus, blood, diaphragm, liver, heart, spleen, lung and pancreas. Gastrointestinal tract components were emptied, washed and weighed again. The experimental design was a randomized block. Means were subjected to regression analysis using PROC GLM/solution of statistical software (SAS, 2002). For the analysis of biometric measurements and cuts only the palette and the circumference of the thorax differed, with superiority to the level of 40% of replacement. As well as rumen / reticulum and full omasum for evaluation of non-carcass components, that presented higher values when the hay was replaced in 40% by passion fruit residue. So, it is recommended the replacement of Tifton hay for passion fruit residue 40%, if available, once there is a reduction on the cost of the diet.

Keywords: evisceration, *passiflora edulis* f. *flavicarpa*, replacement levels, tifton hay

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