

CONSTRUINDO SABERES, FORMANDO PESSOAS E TRANSFORMANDO A PRODUÇÃO ANIMAL

MEAT CENTESIMAL COMPOSITION FROM EWE LAMBS IN DIFFERENT TERMINATION SYSTEMS

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In sheep finishing systems two management tools stands out, one in that lambs are raised together the mother until they reach slaughter weight, and another characterized by weaning and confinement of lambs. The objective of this work was to evaluate the chemical and qualitative characteristics of the meat of two systems of nutritional termination. Sixteen Texel x Hampshire Down lambs weighing 13 kg on average were used in two treatments: lambs with creep feeding and another weaned and confined group (confinement group). The diet offered for both groups consisted of 42% of bulky and 58% of concentrate, with inclusion of 7% of glycerin in the dry matter of the diet. The slaughter was performed when the animals reached a mean live weight of 28kg, after 80 days of confinement. After the slaughter, the carcasses were kept in a cold chamber at 4°C for 24 hours. After this period, the samples of the *Longissimus dorsi* muscle were collected. The thawing losses (TL) were calculated by the difference of weight before that the meat samples were frozen and the weight after the samples were thawed during refrigeration at 5°C for 24 hours. For measure the cooking losses, the samples were weighed and baked till central temperature of each sample reached 71°C. After cooking, the samples were cooled to room temperature and weighed again. The cooking loss (CL) was determined by the difference between weight initial and final, expressed as a percentage. For characterize the chemical composition of meat, samples were also submitted to ethereal extract (EE), crude protein (CP) and mineral matter (MM). Analyzes of variance were carried out in the statistical package SAS® University Edition and the differences considered significant at 5% of probability. The values of TL and CL were 8.52% and 54.33%, respectively, for creep feeding; and 7.84% and 52.63% for confinement, and the difference between the groups did not significant. In relation to EE, CP and MM, the mean values obtained were 4.49%, 21.43% and 1.13%, respectively, for lambs of the Creep feeding, and of 4.12%, 20.98% and 1.13% for the confinement group, without difference significant between the treatments. The finishing systems evaluated is not changed the quality and the composition of meat of ewe lambs.

Keywords: creep feeding, feedlot, meat quality, sheep

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