

CONSTRUINDO SABERES, FORMANDO PESSOAS E TRANSFORMANDO A PRODUÇÃO ANIMAL

## PRODUCTIVE PERFORMANCE OF SHEEP FED WITH DIFFERENT LEVELS OF WET BREWERY RESIDUE IN THE DIET

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The objective of this study was to evaluate the productive performance of sheep fed with different inclusion levels of wet brewery residue (WBR) in the diet. The research was approved by the Animal Ethics and Experimentation Committee under protocol 21/2011. The trial was conducted in the goat and sheep sector of the Federal Institute of Maranhão, Campus São Luis - Maracanã. Twenty sheep were used without defined racial pattern, with average weight 17.5 kg  $\pm$  1.51 kg, approximately eight months old. The animals were distributed in four treatments according to the inclusion levels of dietary WBR (0%, 10%, 20% and 30%), with five replications, in a completely randomized design. The confinement comprised a period of 77 days, with the first 14 days for adaptation and the remaining 63 days for the experimental period. The initial weight, final weight, average weight gain, total weight gain and number of days for gain of 12 kg of live weight were evaluated. The data were analyzed through analysis of variance and test of comparison of means, by means of the test of Tukey, at the level of 5% of probability. There was no effect of inclusion of wet brewery residue ( $P > 0.05$ ) on sheep diets in relation to performance variables. Although they did not present a significant effect among the treatments, the results were satisfactory, considering that at the end of the confinement the animals had a final weight close to the pre-set for slaughter (30 kg). The results also demonstrate the efficiency of diets containing WBR in their composition when compared to traditional diets based on corn and soybean. The inclusion of the wet brewery residue does not affect the productive performance of lambs in confinement.

**Keywords:** alternative food, small ruminants, animal production

**Acknowledgments:** Federal Institute of Maranhão, Campus São Luis - Maracanã.

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Organização:

