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CONSTRUINDO SABERES, FORMANDO PESSOAS E TRANSFORMANDO A PRODUÇÃO ANIMAL

ASSESSMENT OF INGESTIVE BEHAVIOR OF GOAT KIDS FED BABASSU MESOCARP FLOUR

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Babassu *(Attalea speciosa)* is a palm tree native to Brazil's northeast and north states that appears between Cerrado and the Amazon rain forest. Usually, each tree produces 15-25 bunches of fruit, each fruit weighting 98-280 g. The average weights of each component of the babassu coconut are 11% exocarp, 23% mesocarp, 59% endocarp and 7% kernels. From mesocarp can be extracted a flour, whose composition is 60% starch. The use of babassu mesocarp flour (BMF) can be used as an energy source for ruminants, however because of composition, it is important to study the feeding behavior. Twenty eight crossbred goat kids (initial BW of 21.6 ± 3) were used in a randomized complete block design according to initial BW. Lambs were penned individually during 50 d and fed an isonitrogenous diet (125.15 ± 1.16 g.kg^{-1} CP, DM basis) containing 700 g kg^{-1} of concentrate and 300 g kg^{-1} of coastcross hay. Increasing levels of BMF were 0, 100, 200 and 300 g kg^{-1}, DM basis, corresponding to the experimental diets BMF0, BMF100, BMF200 and BMF300, respectively. Animals were monitored every 5 min during 24 h, on the 23th and 45th days of the experiment, according to the activities: eating, rumination, idle and other activities. The feed and rumination efficiencies, expressed as g DM hour^{-1} were obtained by dividing the average daily intake of DM by the total time spent eating and ruminating in 24 hours, respectively. Data were analyzed as a repeat measures using the MIXED procedure of the SAS. Orthogonal polynomials for diet responses were determined by linear and quadratic effects ($P \leq 0.05$). There was an effect on time of observation ($P<0.05$) for time spent in eating (217 ± 59 min day^{-1}) and idle (853 ± 143 min day^{-1}), with greater values recorded at second period. The time spent in rumination, feed and idle did not change ($P>0.05$) with increasing BMF in the diet. The addition of BMF also did not affect ($P<0.05$) the feed efficiency and rumination efficiency of DM and NDF. In conclusion, the increasing levels of BMF in the diet of goat kids did not affect the ingestive behavior.

Keywords: by-product, feeding, idle, rumination

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