

CONSTRUINDO SABERES, FORMANDO PESSOAS E TRANSFORMANDO A PRODUÇÃO ANIMAL

OILSEEDS ON PERFORMANCE, INGESTIVE BEHAVIOR, CARCASS TRAITS AND MEAT QUALITY OF LAMBS FINISHED IN FEEDLOT

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It was aimed to evaluate diet containing oilseeds effects on performance, ingestive behavior, carcass traits and meat quality of lambs. Three isoprotein diets with 600 g kg⁻¹ concentrate and 400 g kg⁻¹ roughage (whole plant corn silage) were evaluated, being a control diet (without oilseed) and two diets containing oilseeds (soybean and cottonseed). Oilseeds diet had 79 g kg⁻¹ of Fat. Fifteen intact Texel lambs with six months of age and 28.5±5.65 kg of body weight were used. Animals were distributed in a completely randomized experimental design, and evaluated for 56 days after 14 days of adaptation in confinement. Performance was influenced by the treatments. Soybean seed (47.07 kg) showed a significant difference in the final weight compared to the cottonseed (42.54 kg) and the control treatment (46.80 kg). Cottonseed diet showed the lowest means for total weight gain (14.28 kg) and average daily gain (255 g kg⁻¹). Animals of cottonseed treatment presented higher rumination time (8 hours) compared to control (6.6 hours) and soybean (6.7 hours). Likewise, cottonseed treatment presented a higher average number of chews per day (56,491 chew day⁻¹) while control was 44,178 and soybean seed was 48,389 chew day⁻¹. In the in vivo measurements body Length (60.99 cm), thorax perimeter (88.73 cm), croup height (64.57 cm), croup width (28.09 cm), thorax width (26.97 cm) and height withers (63.88 cm), were no effect of treatment. The hot carcass yield (HCY) showed differences between treatments, with cottonseed (47.45%) lower than the others treatments (control 50.54% or soybean seed 49.28%). The carcass cuts did not show significant differences between the treatments. There was no significant effect of treatment for shear force (4.26 kgf). Meat of animals of the soybean diet had the highest percentage of ethereal extract (4.02%) and those of the cottonseed presented the lowest percentage (2.63%). In the sensorial analysis, no treatment effect was found on the color, flavor, aroma, juiciness and tenderness characteristics of the lambs' meat. The use of oilseeds may be indicated for confined lambs diets in the finishing phase. Soybean seeds provided better increments in the studied variables when compared to the cottonseed.

Keywords: confinement, cottonseed, soybean, sheep, supplementation

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