

CONSTRUINDO SABERES, FORMANDO PESSOAS E TRANSFORMANDO A PRODUÇÃO ANIMAL

## **EFFECT OF THE SEX AND WEANING AGE ON CARCASS CUTS OF CROSSBRED LAMBS IN SEMIARID AREA NORTHEAST OF BRAZIL**

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The proportion of the cuts on carcass is one of the factors that influence the quality of the carcass and meat. This study was carried out to study effects of slaughter age and sex of on cuts weight and yield of the lamb carcass. Thirty-two crossbred Dorper lambs were used, being 16 males and 16 females weaned at two different ages (70 and 100 days) averaging 21.60 kg of live weight at slaughter. From the 10<sup>th</sup> day of age, the lambs were reared in Creep feeding system with a diet containing 23.3% of crude protein and 2.95 ME/kg of DM up to the 70 days of age. During this period the lambs remained confined in the sheepfold and followed by suckling in the afternoon and evening. From 70 days to 100 days half the lambs stayed together with the ewes in the field and also received silage and 200 g / day of concentrate. The weaning and slaughter occurred when the lambs reached 70 and 100 days of age. A completely randomized design, in factorial outline 2x2 (two sex and 2 age) was used. The means were compared by the Tukey test at 5% probability. No significant effect interaction between age and sex was observed for any trait evaluated. There was significant age effect on the weight and percentage of neck. This higher percentage of neck cut is not economically interesting because it is a third-rate cut. For the other weights and percentages was not observed a significant effect of the age. There was no significant effect of sex on others cuts, demonstrating that sex does not influence those weights when slaughtered in the age range of this study. However, it was observed a significant effect of sex on the yield of leg, in which the mean yield value of this trait for females was higher than the males. This result is interesting economically, considering these cuts add value on the carcass. Except leg and neck Lambs slaughtered at 70 and 100 days of age presented similar weight and yield of the cuts on carcass. The sex affect only yield of the leg on carcass, which the females presented greater proportion.

**Keywords:** Dorper, meat quality weight, yield, sheep

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