

CONSTRUINDO SABERES, FORMANDO PESSOAS E TRANSFORMANDO A PRODUÇÃO ANIMAL

OFFER OF MARANDU GRASS LEAVES ON PRODUCTIVE AND ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE AND CARCASS CHARACTERISTICS OF LAMBS

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The study on different levels of supply of the same fodder for finishing lambs is highly important for sheep production in the cerrado, where *Urochloa* grass is widely used. The objective was to identify the best green leaf offer of *Urochloa brizantha* cv. Marandu for finishing lambs at pasture and receiving 16 g kg⁻¹ of body weight of protein-energetic supplementation (210 g kg⁻¹ crude protein). The animals were separated in four treatments, with different green leaf dry matter offerings (105; 90; 75 and 60 g kg⁻¹ BW). The animals were allocated to paddocks of *Urochloa brizantha* cv Marandu, in which they remained in a continuous grazing system with variable stocking, with the use of control animals in case of adjustment of forage availability. The work was carried out in two experimental periods, July to October, 2015 and June to September, 2016. We used 68 SRD x Texel crossbred lambs being 33 with initial weight of 17.1 kg BW (2015), and 35 with initial weight of 28.2 kg BW (2016). The animals were slaughtered at 6 months of age. There was no significant effect ($P>0.05$) for slaughter weight (41.25 kg) daily gain (166.50 g day⁻¹), total gain (17.53 kg animal⁻¹) and gain by area (218 kg hectare⁻¹). The weight of hot carcass (20.07 kg), of cold carcass (18.55 kg), pH (5.82), fat thickness (4.32 mm), shear force (4.32 kgf) were no influenced by leaf offer ($P>0.05$). The cuts loin (0.69 kg), Ham (3.05 kg) flank skirt (0.49 kg), neck (0.73 kg), rib (1.28 kg), carre (1.25 kg) and pallet (1.74 kg) had no effect by offers. However, the highest profit per animal slaughtered was 90 g kg⁻¹ (US\$25.28) and greater profit per hectare was in the treatment of 75 g kg⁻¹ (US\$ 356.30). It is recommended to offer *Urochloa brizantha* cv. Marandu of 75 g kg⁻¹ for finishing of lambs supplemented with 16 g kg⁻¹ of body weight in order to obtain a higher profit per area, without altering the productive performance or carcass characteristics.

Keywords: pastures, performance, profit, sheep, supplementation

Acknowledgments: CNPq, FUNDECT

Promoção e Realização:



Apoio Institucional:



Organização:

