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## Performance of Ile-de-France lambs fed up with diets containing sugar cane forage variety or corn silage

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**Key words** : corn silage , production , roughage :concentrate ratio , sheep , sugar cane , weight gain

**Introduction** The intensive system of lamb production finds obstacles regarding the feed for , it represents the major share in the production costs . So , the proportion of roughage in the diet as well as its quality , is of fundamental importance to the savings to be found out in the proper system ( Galvani et al . , 2005 ) . This work aimed to assess the dry matter consumption , the daily weight gain , the feed conversion and also the confinement period for the Ile-de-France lambs fed up with corn silage or sugar cane as roughage , if they are considered into two roughage :concentrate ratio .

**Materials and methods** 32 Ile-de-France males lambs were used , distributed in four treatments as such : 60% CS :40% C-60% of corn silage plus 40% of concentrate ; 60% SC :40% C-60% of sugar cane plus 40% concentrate ; 40% CS :60% C-40% of corn silage plus 60% of concentrate ; and 40% SC :60% C-40% of sugar cane plus 60% of concentrate . The forage variety of sugar cane chosen for this experiment was the type IAC-862480 developed specifically for animal feeding . The concentrate were composed by ground corn , soybean meal , urea , ordinary salt , calcitic limestone , dicalcium phosphate and mineral core . The diets were isoproteic and isoenergetic with 19 .70% of crude protein and 2 .50 Mcal/kg/DM of metabolizable energy . The diets were provided at 8 h and 16 h taking into consideration both the quantity consumption and the leftovers weights , permitting only a 20% level of residues . The weights were carried out after a period of solid fasting feed . The conversion was calculated based on the consumption and gain ratio for each animal . They remained confined until reach 32 kg of corporal weight , where they were slaughtered via determination of the number of the ideal days for the slaughtering . The data were submitted to a variance analysis and compared to the Tukey test at 5% probability basis .

**Results** The lambs fed up with diets containing a larger roughage :concentrate ratio required a major time to reach the adequate slaughtering weight , which demanded yet a superior time of confinement . The animals fed up with a major quantity of concentrate , independently of the roughage used , it was observed elevated dry matter intake , daily weight gain and better yet feed conversion regarding those fed up with a major quantity of roughage ( Table 1 ) .

**Table 1** Corporal weight , dry matter intake (DMI) , daily weight gain (DWG) , feed conversion and confinement (days) for the Ile-de-France lambs fed up with diets containing corn silage or sugar cane forage variety .

Variable	Treatment <sup>a</sup>				VC (%)
	60% CS :40% C	60% SC :40% C	40% CS :60% C	40% SC :60% C	
Initial weight (kg)	14 .96	15 .02	15 .08	15 .24	2 .06
Final weight (kg)	33 .44	32 .18	33 .00	32 .92	2 .14
DMI (g/animal/day)	811 .20b	687 .00c	913 .60a	820 .80ab	6 .96
DWG (g/animal/day)	260 .60bc	211 .60c	329 .00a	299 .60ab	12 .02
Feed conversion	3 .16ab	3 .26a	2 .79ab	2 .75b	8 .87
Confinement (days)	73 .00ab	82 .00a	55 .00c	60 .00bc	12 .34

Averages followed by the same letter in the line do not differ by the Tukey test ( $P > 0 .05$ ) .

<sup>a</sup>60% CS :40% C-60% of corn silage plus 40% of concentrate ; 60% SC :40% C-60% of sugar cane plus 40% of concentrate ; 40% CS :60% C-40% of corn silage plus 60% of concentrate ; 40% SC :60% C-40% of sugar cane plus 60% of concentrate .

**Conclusions** The sugar cane forage variety being 40% of the lambs diet offers a good performance for the animals , with weight gains , feed conversion and period of confinement similar to those fed up with the corn silage with the same proportion .

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