Winter shearing during late pregancy in the Latxa dairy sheep: effect on food intake and birth weight of lambs

NEIKER
Instituto Vasco de Investigación y Desarrollo Agrario
Nekazal Berrikuntza eta Garapenerako Euskal Erakundea

R. Ruiz, J. Arranz, I. Beltrán de Heredia, García A., L.M. Oregui.

NEIKER, Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain

Framework: Winter shearing = common practice in Meat Production Systems, but lack of data regarding its interest for Dairy Sheep Systems.

Objective: to assess the effect of winter shearing late-pregnant ewes upon food intake and the main productive parameters in the Latxa dairy sheep

Material and Methods

N sheep	Control	Shorn
2003-04	28	28
2004-05	32	32

Shearing date

109 days post-AI

100 days post-AI

Feeding management in lots:

Grass silage *ad libitum* +

Commmercial concentrate

2003: 12% Crude Protein; 470 gr/sheep

2004: 20% Crude Protein; 400 gr/sheep

Control of Offers and Refusals: 1 week

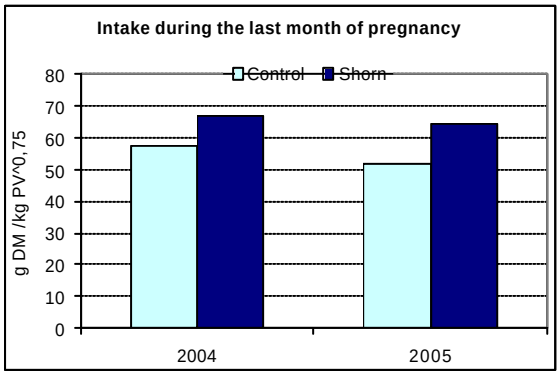
Lambs: Weighted at lambing (y=g)

Statistical Analysis: GLM (SAS)

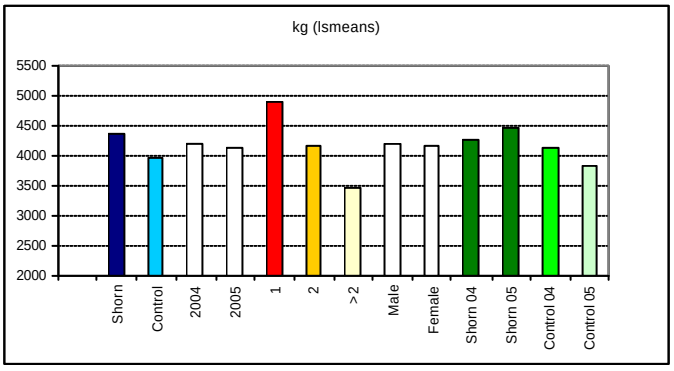
$$y = L_i + Y_j + P_k + S_l + LxY_{ij} + LxP_{ik} + e_{ijkl}$$

L=lot (Shorn vs. Control)	**
Y= Year (2004 vs. 2005)	*P>0,05*
P=Prolificity (1, 2, >2)	***
S=Sex of the lamb (male vs. female)	*P>0,05*
LxY= interaction	*
LxP= interaction	*P>0,05*

Results



Shorn sheep eat 15-25% more...



...and produce Heavier lambs, But conditioned by Prolificity

Contact:
rruiz@neiker.net