

Winter shearing in the Latxa dairy sheep: effect on dry matter intake during lactation, milk yield, milk quality and body condition

Ruiz R., García-Rodríguez A., Ugarte E., Arranz J., Beltrán de Heredia I., L.M. Oregui
NEIKER-Tecnalia, 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 sheep during late-pregnancy upon food intake and the main productive parameters in the Latxa dairy sheep

Material and Methods

N sheep	Control	Shorn	Shearing date
2003-04	28	28	109 days post-AI
2004-05	32	32	100 days post-AI



Feeding management in lots:

Grass silage *ad libitum* +
Luzerne hay: 820 gr/sheep/d.
Commercial concentrate: 800 gr/sheep/d.

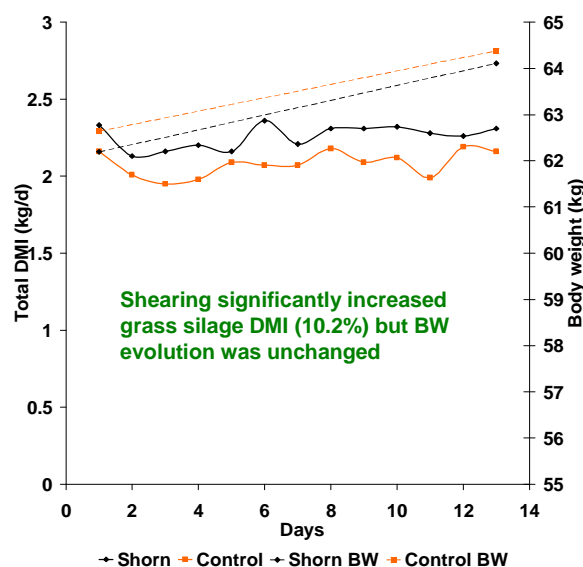
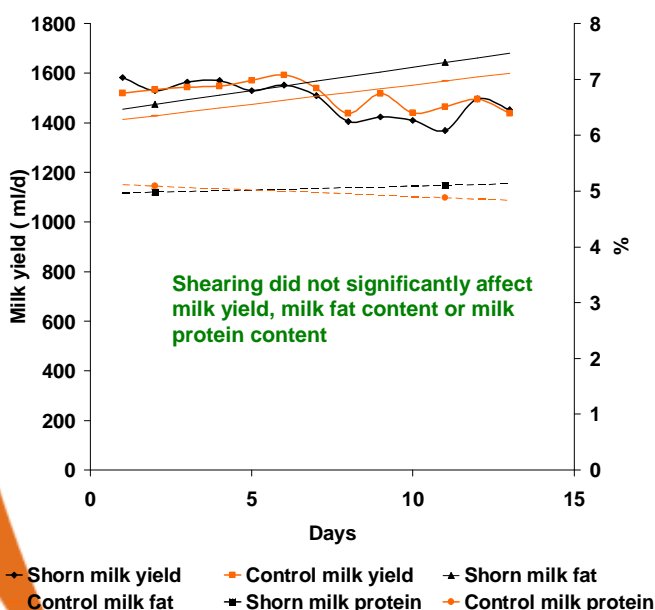
Measurements:

Dry matter intake
Individual body weight evolution
Milk yield and
Milk protein and fat content

Statistics:

Variables analysed using the GLM proc of SAS

Results and conclusions



► Winter shearing increased DMI but did not improve milking performance