

Effect of concentrate quantity on milk parameters and grazing time in a rationed dairy sheep grazing system

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Framework: partial time grazing (PTG)= dairy sheep production based on pasture utilisation in spring; matching herbage, forage and supplements.

Objective: to evaluate the effect of concentrate quantity (CQ) upon the main productive parameters in the Latxa dairy sheep, in PTG system.

Material and Methods

Sheep blocked into groups of 12 and randomly assigned to concentrate quantities (CQ): 500, 750 and 1000g/d. Diet completed with 275g DM of lucerne hay/d and access to pasture 4 h/d.

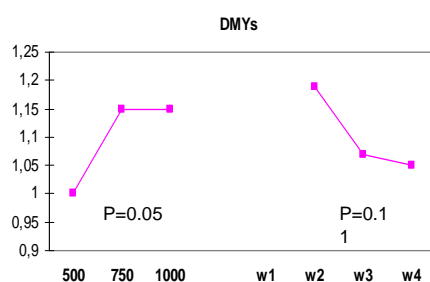
Monitored data: 4 weeks

- * DMVs: Standardized dairy milk yield (l/d)
- * Milk quality: fat=CF and protein=CP (%)
- * GT: Grazing time (min/h)
- * LW: Live weight (kg)

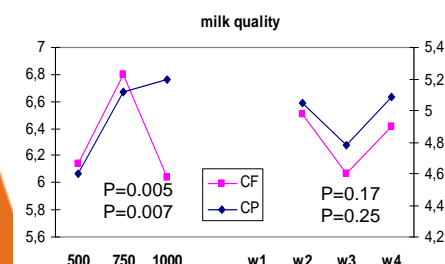
Statistical Analysis:

GLM (SAS) considering as fixed effects concentrate quantity (CQ), week (W) and their interaction.

Results

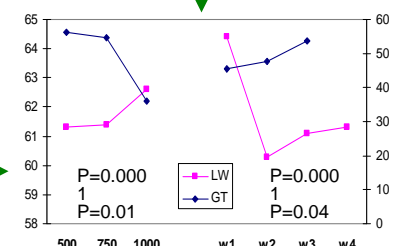


DMVs and quality: affected by CQ level but not by week.



Low-middle CQ ewes had higher grazing time which could be to covered milk production needs.

High CQ ewes had lower grazing time and used exceeding energy to increase LW.



In conclusion in PTG system no economical advantage is achieved when offering more than 750 g/d of concentrate.