

PERFORMANCE OF EWES AND LAMBS SUBMITTED TO DIFFERENT LEVELS OF ENERGY DURING GESTATION AND LACTATION

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OBJECTIVES

The objective of this work was to evaluate the influence of feeding energy levels during the last third of gestation and lactation on productive and behavioral parameters of ewes and its lambs.

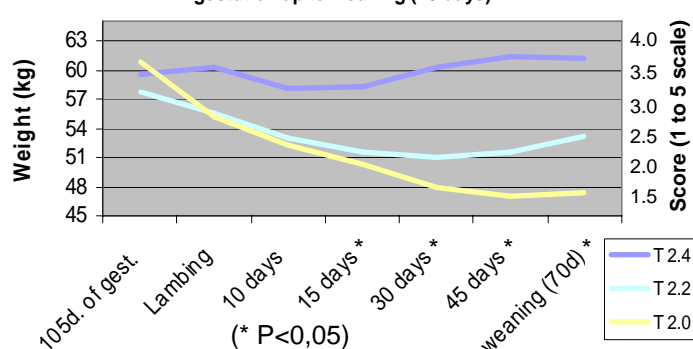
MATERIAL AND METHODS

- Site: three collective corrals at the sheep raising sector of the Londrina State University.
- Animals: thirty crossbred of Santa Ines ewes (and its lambs) with 105 days of gestation, average live weight of 57.6 kg and average body condition score of 3.4 at the beginning of the experiment.
- Treatments: *ad libitum* rations with 2.4 (T2.4), 2.2 (T2.2) and 2.0 (T2.0) Mcal of ME/kg of DM.
- Experimental design: pregnant ewes were randomly assigned among treatments.

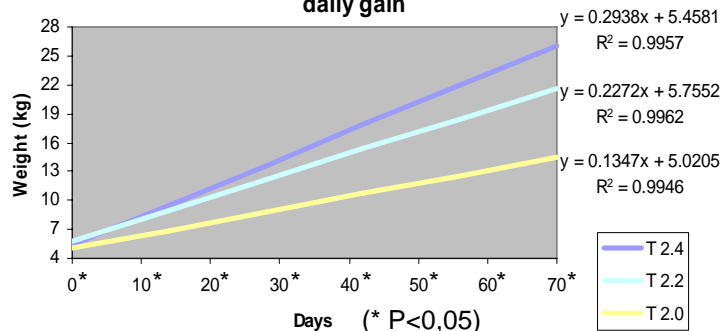


RESULTS

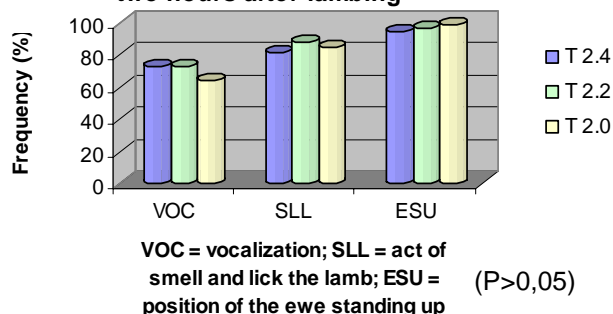
Ewes body weight and body condition scores from 105 days of gestation up to weaning (70 days)



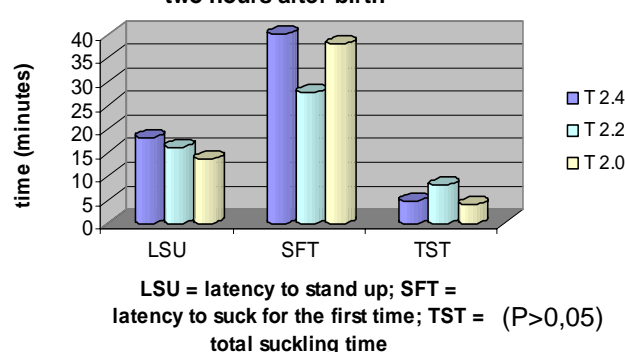
Lambs weight from birth to weaning and average daily gain



Frequency of ewes behavioral events observed every five minutes during the first two hours after lambing



Lambs behavioral events observed during the first two hours after birth



CONCLUSIONS

Although the levels of energy tested had no effect on traits evaluated at lambing, only the highest level allowed good weights and body condition scores to ewes at weaning, allowing them to enter immediately in the next breeding season; and the same time, the lambs were ready to be slaughtered.