

PERFORMANCE, INGESTIVE BEHAVIOR AND MEAT QUALITY OF LAMBS SUBMITTED TO DIFFERENT FEEDING FREQUENCIES

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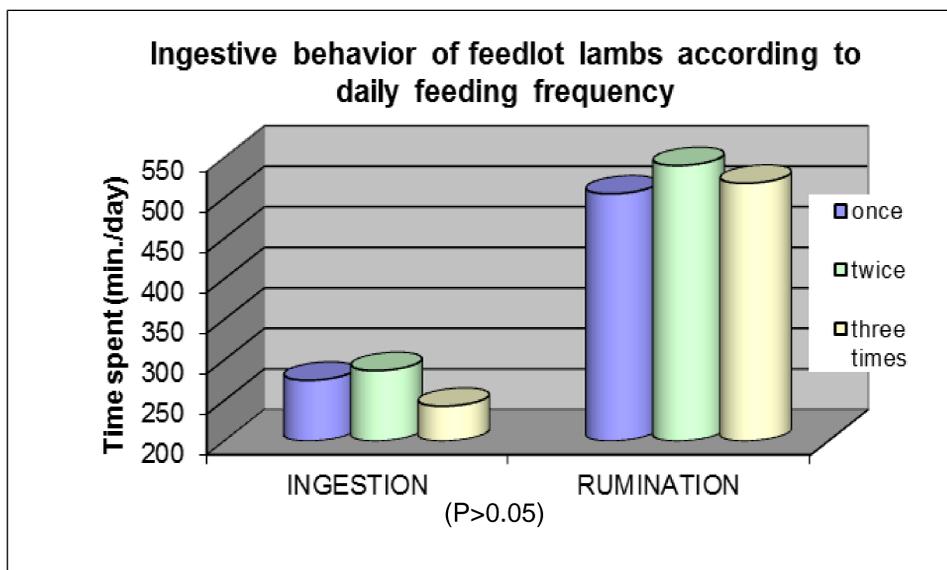
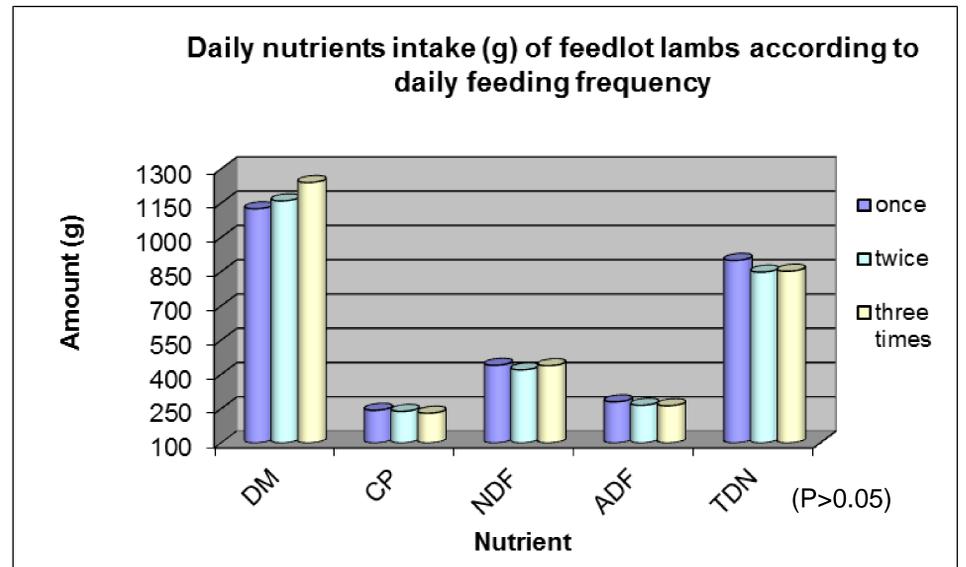
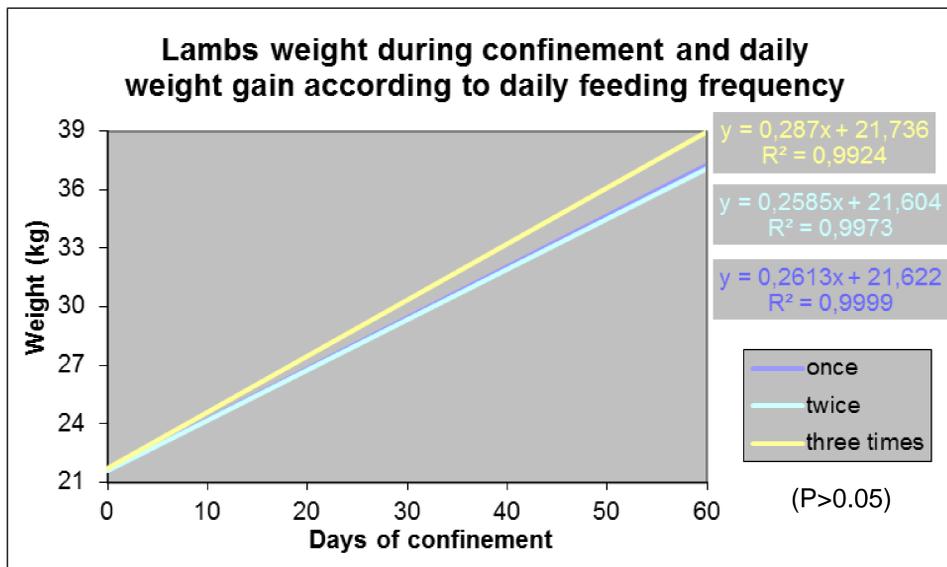
OBJECTIVES

Evaluate effects of feeding frequencies on performance, ingestive behavior and meat quality of feedlot lambs.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

- Site: eighteen covered pens (2.0 m² each) at the sheep raising sector of the State University of Londrina.
- Animals: thirty-six crossbred of Santa Ines ram lambs with 70 days of age and 21.9 kg of average live weight at the beginning of the experiment.
- Experimental design: lambs were randomly assigned among three frequencies of feeding (once, twice and three times a day).
- Ration (20% CP; 41% NDF; 26% ADF and 68% TDN): sorghum silage (50%) and concentrate (50%) of soybean meal, ground corn and sunflower cake.

RESULTS



Average values on carcass and meat parameters, according to daily feeding frequency.

| Variable | Daily feeding frequency | | | Average |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | |
| Cold carcass weight (kg) | 16.80 | 16.57 | 16.82 | 16.73 |
| Cold carcass yield (%) | 44.82 ^a | 44.26 ^a | 42.62 ^b | 43.90 |
| Marbling (1 to 6 scale) | 2.90 | 2.92 | 2.58 | 2.80 |
| pH | 5.65 | 5.58 | 5.64 | 5.62 |
| Odor (1 to 5 scale) | 2.85 | 3.43 | 3.28 | 3.18 |
| Juiciness (1 to 5 scale) | 3.75 | 3.42 | 3.49 | 3.55 |
| Tenderness (1 to 7 scale) | 6.30 | 5.74 | 5.85 | 5.97 |
| Overall acceptability (1 to 9 scale) | 6.55 | 5.89 | 6.99 | 6.15 |

^{a,b} P<0.05 Tukey's test

CONCLUSION

Finishing lambs can be fed only once a day without compromising animal performance and meat quality.