

"00" RAPE SEEDS OF JANITAR VARIETY AS A COMPONENT OF RATIONS FOR SUCKLING LAMBS

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INTRODUCTION

Relatively few experiments were conducted on the effect of application of rape seeds in young ruminant feeding. However, results of such investigations are often contradictory and not so conspicuous as those obtained for adult animals.

This is why an experiment was devised the aim of which was to determine the influence of varying levels of "00" varieties of rape seeds in rations for suckling lambs on live weight gains, feed utilization as well as levels of urea, glucose, cholesterol and some mineral components in blood serum.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The experiment was carried out on 24 ewes with single lambs about 60 days old which were divided into 3 groups. The experiment lasted from the 60th to the 120th day of lambs life.

Group I of suckling lambs and ewes was fed concentrate containing rapeseed meal while groups II and III- concentrate in which 25 % (group II) and 50 % (group III) of rapeseed meal was replaced by ground rape seeds. The lambs were fed ad lib.

RESULTS

No statistically significant differences were found in the rate of lambs growth and in the consumption on concentrate per 1 kg of body gain. The highest daily body gains were recorded in animals from group I (206 g), slightly lower in groups II (173 g) and III (133 g).

Tests carried out on some biochemical and mineral indices in blood serum showed an increase in the concentration significantly higher levels of glucose in the serum of animals from groups II and III.

Results of rearing lambs

Items	Group		
	I	II	III
Total body gain (kg)	12.33 [±] 1.94	10.66 [±] 3.63	11.00 [±] 2.74
Daily gains (g)	236 [±] 33	178 [±] 61	133 [±] 45
Glucose (mmol/dcm ³) 60 th day of exp.	2.55 [±] 0.43Aa	3.30 [±] 0.56Ab	3.55 [±] 0.32Ca

Items	Group		
	I	II	III
Ca (mmol/dcm ³) 60 th day of exp.	2.54 [±] 0.32	2.54 [±] 0.33	2.52 [±] 0.22
Mg (mmol/dcm ³) 60 th day of exp.	0.96 [±] 0.13	1.03 [±] 0.14	1.02 [±] 0.06

Values in the same column followed by different letters are significantly different: capitals - $p \leq 0.01$

small letters - $p \leq 0.05$

DISCUSSION

Application of rape seeds in concentrates did not improve rearing results of lambs. Similar results were obtained by Sharma et al. (1986) using rape seeds in starter concentrates for calves.

The increased share of fat in the concentrate resulted in an increase of glucose levels in the blood serum, as confirmed an increase of glucose levels in the blood serum, as confirmed by earlier studies of Kronfeld (1988).

Contrary to reports by Palmaquist (1988), in our experiment inclusion of rape seeds in concentrates did not affect Ca and Mg levels in the blood serum.

CONCLUSION

Application of rape seeds to substitute a part of rapeseed meal in the concentrate for lambs yielded results which were not very different from the results of the control group.

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