

RELATIVE ACCEPTABILITY OF NAPIER GRASS AND MAIZE CROP RESIDUES BY BRAZILIAN SRD GOATS

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Chopped, green napier grass (*Pennisetum purpureum*) and three dried ground residues of the maize plant (*Zea mays*) -wholeplant stover, husks, and cobs - were offered in the six possible combinations of two feedstuffs to 18 SRD ("without defined breed") wether goats at the National Goat Research Center in Sobral, Ceara, Northeast Brazil. The mean weight (W) for the goats was 9.9 ± 2.0 kg. The six treatments were assigned to all animals in six 7-day periods. Feeding was *ad libitum*; orts from each feed were collected and weighed separately. The mean total dry matter intake (DMI, g/day/ $W_{kg}^{.75}$) for each treatment was as follows: napier + husks 62, napier + stover 57, napier + cobs

49, husks + stover 42, husks + cobs 34, stover + cobs 32. Treatment differences were highly significant (P .01). Period and period X treatment effects were not significant. Percent contributions (C) of each feedstuff to total DMI, by treatment, was as follows: napier 61, husks 39; napier 57, stover 43; napier 76, cobs 24; stover 66, husks 34; husks 62, cobs 38; stover 60, cobs 40. A relative palatability index was calculated as the mean of the C's for each feedstuff; napier 65, stover 56, husks 45 and cobs 34. It is evident that voluntary DMI by goats is lower for maize residues than for napier grass, and that different parts of the dried maize plant have a different degree of acceptability.

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