

EFFECT OF GRAZING MANAGEMENT ON ANIMAL BEHAVIOR OF DAIRY GOATS IN TANZANIA GRASS PASTURE

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Abstract / Resumo:

Nowadays, sustainable models to produce animal is a challenge when used cultivated pasture. Discovery new tools to produce forage must be associated with adequate welfare conditions to animals can be productive in pasture. The objectives of this study were to assess the behavior of goats on pasture under different grazing in Tanzania grass cultivated and irrigated pasture, during dry season. This experiment has been carried out at Embrapa Caprinos in Sobral, Ce, Brazil during dry season. Daily temperature during dry season averaged 30°C with minimum and maximum value close to 24°C and 35°C, in this order. Relative humidity averaged 53%. Daily pasture was irrigated except paddocks with goats. Nubian goats were tested. Was used a rotational grazing system. Pasture was management to get four levels of grazing: intensive (post grazing residue-PGR 30cm and N supplied 600 kg/ha year); moderate (PGR 45cm and N supplied 300 kg/ha year), light (PGR 45cm without N supplied) and extensive (PGR 30cm without N supplied). Grazing behavior was assessed by direct observation. Goat activity in terms of time spent eating, chewing, and resting was monitored every 10 min. Activities like to urinate, to defecate, to drink other and salt intake were measured when occurred. The averages were compared using Kruskal-Wallis test ($p < 0.05$). The SAS 9.0 software was used to perform the statistical proceeding. No significant differences to grazing time, rumination time and resting time were observed among treatments. The animals spent time averaged 29%, 23% and 49% with grazing, chewing and resting in this order. The frequency urinating, defecation and drink water was low to all treatments. The animals in moderate intaked more salt than other. Was observed effect of hours on main activities. Grazing was more intensive at morning (5-12hrs) and after milking (15-17hrs). A small period was observed at night (20-23hrs). Was observed rumination in all hours, but at dawn (0-5hrs) the animals spent more time with rumination than other activities. Animals spent more time to resting during night. No significant effect of treatments was observed on grazing, rumination and resting time. In conclusion, animals spent more time with grazing during morning and afternoon while rumination and resting time was mainly measured during night. These results are a typical behavior of ruminants in pasture.