

The use of *Stylosanthes guianensis* cv. Mineirão and *Medicago sativa* hays to control gastritestinal nematodes in feedlot lambs

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The gastrintestinal nematodes parasitism is considered one of the most important limitation to the sheep breeding. Some reports have shown that the consumption of tanniniferous plants reduces the faecal egg counts (FEC) and the worm burdens in ruminant. The aim of this study was to investigate the influence of diets containing *Stylosanthes guianensis* cv. Mineirão and *Medicago sativa* hays on the FEC in feedlot lambs. For this study were used three groups (G1, G2 and G3) of 13 crossbred Santa Inês lambs, weighing between 20 and 34kg and aged six to seven months. Only healthy males were used and as they come, were treated with Sulfaquinoxaline sodium for three days and drenched. The experiment started thirteen days after an acclimate period. The groups were reared in 03 indoor enclosures for six weeks with water and mineral salt ad libitum and 03 different feeding protocols. The dairy diet for each group was: 3 Kg *Medicago sativa* hay, 29,7 Kg sugarcane plus elephant grass (1:1) and 3,6Kg of concentrate (30% soybean meal, and 70% corn) for G1; 3,9 Kg *stylosanthes* hay, 29,7Kg sugarcane plus elephant grass (1:1) and 3,6Kg of concentrate for G2 and 39,6Kg sugarcane plus elephant grass (1:1) and 7,2kg of concentrate for G3. During the trial faecal samples were collected every week to evaluate the FEC and the data were compared by Kruskal-Wallis nonparametrical statistical test. The FEC means and standard deviations from day zero were: 1282±1515 for G1, 854±869 for G2 and 1055±982 for G3. The FEC means and standard deviations observed were: 1078±1421 for G1, 462±819 for G2 and 1424±2645 for G3. The FEC from G2 were significantly smaller than the others and there was no significant difference between G1 and G3. According to available researches *Stylosanthes guianensis* cv. Mineirão has higher levels of condensed tannins than *Medicago sativa*, moreover this trial shows that this *stylosanthes* variety could be useful to control gastrintestinal nematodes in sheep.
