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Entire sugar cane or sugar cane residues for feeding sheep. Performance traits of hairless sheep

R Magaña, J Aguirre*, A Aguirre*, A Gómez*, S Martínez*, C Lemus*, R Ulloa* and J Ly*

Posgraduate student of Biological and Zootechnic Sciences, Autonomous University of Nayarit, and adscribed to General Direction of Livestock Technological Education (DGTEA in Spanish) in Nayarit. Tepic. Nayarit, Mexico
mag_8601@hotmail.com
**Universidad Autónoma de Nayarit. Cuerpo Académico de Producción y Biotecnología Animal. Tepic, Nayarit, México*
jorgea@nayar.uan.mx
***General Direction of Livestock Technological Education (DGETA in Spanish) in Nayarit, Tepic. Nayarit, Mexico*

Summary

A total of 21 male sheep of the hairless (Pelibuey) genotype (20.2 ± 3.1 kg) was randomly allotted to three treatments to be given during 56 days three diets formulated to contain 50% of either green, ground and fermented entire sugar cane; burnt, ground and fermented sugar cane or burnt, ground and fermented sugar cane residues. Daily gain was 92, 130 and 106 g whereas feed conversion was 13.53, 10.57 and 12.68 kg feed/kg gain, with no significant (P>0.05) differences among treatments.

It is suggested that burnt sugar cane as crop residues which are ground and fermented, can bring about a new feedstuff for feeding sheep in Nayarit, where a considerable amount of crop residues are yearly produced during sugar cane harvest.

Key words: Pelibuey, performance traits, processed sugar cane crop residues, sheep

Introduction

Feeding farm animals, either monogastric or ruminant species, are usually carried out by the employment of high amounts of milling products from cereal and legume grains, which in turn establish an open competence with human beings from the point of view of use of the same resources of foods. This is the cause why a search is done for other alimentary options promoting the use of raw materials for ruminants which are not susceptible of use in human feeding.

Feeding either cattle or small ruminats with sugar cane remains up to date in the tropics, since sugar cane yields high amounts of biomass. Moreover, in the dry tropical climate of Nayarit, Mexico, sugar cane is harvested during the dry season, when other grasses are evidently scanty. However, it must be taken into account feed supplementation to correct nutritional deficiency which could occur if the characteristics of sugar cane are not considered, which in turn contribute to attain an optimum of its productive potential (Martín 1981).