

Effect of feeding dried whey on the efficiency of Iraqi Awassi lambs

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ABSTRACT:

This research was conducted to evaluate different levels of dried whey in the production performance of Awassi lambs. Estimation of daily and total weight gain was systematically done by using completely randomized design. Twenty male Awassi lambs were used with initial weight of 23.77 ± 1.52 kg and aged 2-3 month old, randomly distributed to five treatments with individual pens in the animal field of University of Baghdad, College of Agriculture, Abu Ghraib. Lambs fed on experimental diets at different levels of whey powder (WP) 0, 25, 50, 75 and 100% instead of soybeans meals were studied. The concentrated feed was determined based on dry matter at 3% of the body weight, while the green alfalfa was provided *ad libitum*. The trial continued for 74 days, including adaptation period of 14 days. The results showed that the fourth treatment (T_4) (75% WP) was higher than the others ($P < 0.05$) with regard to daily weight gain, which was 166.66 g / day compared with others (106.24, 139.58, 124.99 and 158.33) g/day for T_1, T_2, T_3 and T_5 respectively. The same treatment showed higher total weight gain ($P < 0.05$) of 10 kg compared with other treatments. To conclude, the use of dried whey at 75% and 100% instead of soybean reduced the economic cost of producing 1 kg gain by 7.22% and 7.08% respectively.

Keywords:

Weight gain, Awassi lambs, Dried whey, Soybean meal, Daily gain.