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## Productivity of Different Lamb Production Systems in Temperate and Tropical Pasture of the Southern Region of Brazil

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**Presenter Information**

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## Productivity of different lamb production systems in temperate and tropical pasture of the southern region of Brazil

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**Key words** : feedlot ,creep feeding ,weaned lamb ,Tifton 85 ,ryegrass

**Introduction** In Brazilian sheep production systems there are "modern" systems using a lot of concentrate or "traditional" systems utilizing lower technology .Due to the various systems ,it is important to have research data for farmers to use when choosing their system of management .

**Material and methods** During two years (2003-2004) ,experiments were conducted to assess the potential performance of lambs grazing Tifton 85 (*Cynodon* spp .) and ryegrass (*Lolium multiflorum*) in different production systems : around 45 to 60 days old weaned lambs were (1) kept on pasture ; (2) kept with their mother on pasture ; (3) kept with their mother on pastures of Tifton 85 and ryegrass and receiving concentrate in creep feeding ; or (4) assigned to a feedlot ,receiving alfalfa hay or maize silage plus a balanced concentrate .The Suffolk lambs in the first were 60 days old when the experiment started the first year and 45 days old when the experiment started the second year .The animals were weighed every 14 days with a 16 hour of water fast . The males were slaughtered at 32 kg of live weight .Body weight gain of lambs was calculated by the difference between final weight and initial weight and divided by the number of days in the experiment .The experiment was allocated in a completely randomized design .The pasture treatments were maintained using continuous variable stocking .

**Results and discussion** The lamb performance and slaughter age are in Table 1 (the lambs finished in Tifton-85) and Table 2 (the lambs finished in ryegrass) .There was a significant effect of the treatments on the lamb performance .The feedlot animals showed the highest daily weight gain .The supplementation in creep feeding of 1% of live weight of lambs did not have an effect on lambs kept with their mothers grazing tropical nor temperate pastures .

**Table 1** Estimated means of lamb body weight gain daily (g/day) and slaughter age (days) of finishing lambs in Tifton 85 pasture in the first year of experiment (2003) .

	Lambs body weight gain/day (g)	Slaughter age of lambs (day)
Weaned lamb in Tifton-85	107 c	131 a
Lambs without weaning in Tifton-85	281 b	101 b
Lambs in creep feeding+Tifton-85	282 b	105 b
Weaned lambs with 60 days+feedlot	437 a	94 b

Small letter in the same column differ by Tukey test (P<0 .05)

**Table 2** Estimated means of lamb body weight gain daily (g/day) and slaughter age (days) of finishing lambs in ryegrass pasture and feedlot (2004) .

	Lambs body weight gain/day (g)	Slaughter age of lambs (day)
Weaned lamb in ryegrass	115 b	158 b
Lambs without weaning in ryegrass	303 a	106 a
Lambs in creep feeding+ryegrass	294 a	96 a
Weaned lambs with 45 days+feedlot	338 a	105 a

Small letter in the same column differ by Tukey test (P<0 .05)

**Conclusions** The presence of dams had an important positive effect on individual performance of lambs when compared to weaned ones ,both at Tifton-85 in summer pastures as ryegrass in the winter .The system that the lambs were weaned and finished in pasture showed higher slaughter age and extending the production cycle due to increase the time required for animals in pasture to reach 32 kg of BW ,both in summer and in winter .