



Productive performance of Pantanal locally adapted lambs finished under three production systems.

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Introduction

The performance evaluation of the sheep industry is important to help decision making by the producer in order to choose an appropriated lamb finishing system to the Midwest Region of Brazil. This study compares the Pantanal locally adapted lambs finished at pasture as an alternative to feedlot system, the latter widely used to avoid worm infestation in tropical conditions.

Material and Methods

The trial was conducted at Embrapa's Midwest Regional Center of Goats and Sheep, Terenos – Mato Grosso do Sul. 122 weaned 70 days old male and female lambs were completely dewormed at weaning and randomly grouped to the treatments: Piatã-grass and Paiaguás-grass pastures established in succession to sorghum and soybean crops (LCS-Livestock-Crop System) in 2013 and 2014, respectively; Piatã-grass as five months stockpiled pasture (STOCK); feedlot (CONF) with sorghum silage as roughage. Lambs were fed a 2% of body weight energy-protein concentrate (15% CP and 70% TDN) in all treatments. The trial period was 63 and 70 days in the dry season (August to October) in each year, respectively.

Results and Conclusions

Tabela 1. Productive performance of Pantaneiro lambs finished in the dry period.

Variables	STOCK	LCS	CONF	CV
	----- kg -----			--- % ---
Final liveweight	28.56 b	30.53 a	27.69 b	9.48
Liveweight gain	11.25 b	13.22 a	10.38 b	24.90
Average daily gain	0.151 b	0.177 a	0.139 b	18.64

Averages followed by distinct letters in line are different by the Tukey-Kramer test ($P < 0.05$).

Lambs finished at pasture in LCS system showed better performance (Table 1). Lambs initial average liveweight was 17.43 kg. The greater liveweight gain and average daily gain in LCS treatment might be attributed to highest and better nutritional value of forage available to lambs in this system. Although a more complex system, LCS is an economic alternative to the sheep meat farmers in central region of Brazil.

References cited

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