Effect of the type of forage (Grazing vs. Hay) and the inclusion of condensed tannins in ewe's diet on milk quality and suckling lamb's growth

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Ewes are usually stalled around parturition and are fed hay plus concentrate during lactation while lambs are fed maternal milk. Grazing management could be an interesting alternative to stall-feeding. Moreover, the inclusion of tannins in the diet reduces methane emissions of the ewe and could improve their performance.

**OBJECTIVE**
Evaluate the effect of type forage (grazing vs. hay) and the inclusion of condensed tannins (CT) in the concentrate fed to lactating ewes on milk yield and composition and on the performance of the suckling lamb.

**Materials and Methods**
- 39 pairs of ewe-lamb
- Spring 2014
- 2 forages
- 2 concentrate
- 300g/day/ewe
- Concentrate with 10 % of Quebracho (SYLVAFEED ByPro Q, Spain)

**Lambing**
- **Sampling:**
  - Weekly:
    - Milk production and quality
    - Weight
  - At slaughter:
    - Cold carcass weight, after carcass cooling (4ºC 24h)
    - Dressing percentage

**Slaughter**
Live weight: 10-12 kg
Maximum : 35 days of age

**Results**
- **Milk yield (l/day)**
- **Protein content (%)**

**CONCLUSIONS**
- Grazing improved milk production and composition, and lamb performance, so it can be a good alternative to hay-feeding of lactating ewes.
- Condensed tannins under the present conditions did not have effects on ewe's and lamb's performance.

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