

12. Comparison complete pelleted ration versus traditional feeding in horse. A.Manzano\* and C.M.Haddad. EMBRAPA, Sao Carlos, Brazil.

This experiment was realized to compare the effects of two types of horse feeding, i.e, complete pelleted ration (RCP) versus traditional feeding (AT) on growth performance and digestibility of the nutrients. The two treatments were compared by using a paired design. It was used in 14 arabian growing females, divided in 7 pairs according to weight and age. The RCP was a pelleted mixture with 60% alfalfa hay, 34% corn meal and 6% soybean meal, supplied to the animal in 3 equal meals at 8:00 AM, 1:00 PM and 5:00 PM daily. The animals under AT received the same ingredients in the same proportions. The concentrate was in the mash form and separated from the alfalfa hay. The AT feed was supplied also 3 times daily, according to the following: at 8:00 AM 1/2 of concentrate; at 1:00 PM 1/2 of concentrate plus 1/3 of alfalfa hay and at 5:00 PM the remainder 2/3 of the hay. During the first phase (63 days), animals were weighed every 14 days. Average daily gain, final body weight, feed conversion on a dry matter basis and total feed consumption were: 0,786 kg; 273,71 kg; 7,34; 350,51 kg for RCP and 0,711 kg; 274,42 kg; 7,74; 332,10 kg, for AT. In the second phase (7 days) average digestibility of nutrients were determined in both treatments by the total collection of faeces. Digestibility per cent of DM, CP, CF, EE and NFE were: 62,89%; 67,39%; 33,01%; 40,91% and 80,33% for RCP and 62,47%; 67,75%; 36,16%; 40,21% and 80,08% for AT. It was concluded that both types of feeding did not differ in any the variables considered, in the study. As a consequence the RCP could substitute the AT without problem.

**KEY WORDS:** Equines, complete pelleted ration.