

Productive Performance of Goats Kept under Buffel Grass pasture and Supplemented with Umbuzeiro Fruits.

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Abstract

Resumo:

The Brazilian goat herd is estimated in 11.2 million animals, where approximately 92.2% are raised in the Northeastern region. However, the productive performance of animals raised here is low due mainly to poor feeding management. This work aimed to evaluate the productive performance of goats kept under Buffel grass pasture and supplemented with umbuzeiro fruits (*Spondias tuberosa* Arruda) in the semi-arid zone of Pernambuco, Brazil. Twenty-four castrated and crossbreed kids were used; they were 9 months old and 17.0 kg of body weight at the beginning of experiment. The animals were homogeneously allocated into three treatments: 1) Control (n=8) animals fed exclusively with Buffel grass; 2) Umbu 1x (n=8) they received umbu fruits once a week and 3) Umbu 3x (n=8) they received umbu fruits for three times a week. Four observations of corporal weight were accomplished in intervals of 14 days, making a total of 56 days of experimentation. We estimated the consumption of dry matter intake (total DMI) by total collection of feces. There was no significant difference ($P > 0.05$) among the treatments. The total weight gain (TWG) were 6.54 kg, 6.25 kg and 6.09 kg, and average daily weight gain (DWG) were 116.79 g/day, 111.61 g/day and 108.7 g/day, respectively, for groups Control, Umbu 1x and Umbu 3x. Similar results were found for the total DMI (547.04g, 544.89g and 568.08g, respectively, for the experimental groups). These results can explain the absence of significant difference ($P > 0.05$) for TWG and DWG among the treatments. However, these results are considered very good for goats kept under Buffel grass pasture. The high quality of Buffel grass was enough to fulfill the nutritional requirements of kids. In conclusion, the supplementation with umbu did not influence the productive performance of goats.