

CLAYS IN ANIMAL NUTRITION: 6. EFFECT OF FEEDING PELLETTED COMPLETE FEEDS CONTAINED UREA AND TAFLA ON DIGESTIBILITY, GROWTH AND WOOL OF LOCAL SHEEP.

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SUMMARY

Twenty four Ossimi lambs averaged 14.5 kg and aged 16 weeks were used to study the effect of 4 pelleted complete feeds (PCF) on digestibility, growth performance and wool characteristics. The lambs were divided into 4 groups (6 animals in each). The animal groups were fed on PCF without urea or tafta (C), 2% urea without tafta (U), 2% urea + 3% tafta (U₁T) and 2.5% urea + 3% tafta (U₂T). Growth trial lasted for 24 weeks which were divided into 3 successive periods. By the end of the growth trial, 3 animals from each group were taken for digestibility trials. The main results were, the crude fibre (CF) digestibility of U₂T was significantly ($p < 0.05$) lower than that of the other rations, while the other nutrients digestibility was not significantly affected with different rations. The group U had the lowest value of daily body gain (DBG) while the group U₂T had the highest value. The yield of clean wool of the groups fed urea and tafta (U₁T and U₂T) was significantly higher than that of groups U or C. The wool quality of the groups U₁T and U₂T was better than groups U or C. Conclusively, adding tafta clay in pelleted complete feed improved growth performance and wool yield and its characteristics. Moreover, U₂T was the most economic diet among all tested ones.

Key words: Tafta, urea, sheep, growth, wool.