

RESEARCH ARTICLE :

Effect of feeding shea nut cake based diets on growth and carcass characteristics in nellore x deccani ram lambs

■ **R. PRASANNA KUMAR, S.B. PAKALA VENKATA, RAGHUNANDAN, SAHITYA RANI AND M. SHASHI KUMAR**

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SUMMARY : Thirty experimental lambs (2-3 months old) with average body weight of 12.02 ± 0.27 were procured from local sandies and distributed randomly in to 5 equal groups in complete randomized design (RBD). The first group was control group these animals were given feed without Sheanut cake. The other two groups were given with concentrate mixture containing 20% and 40% sheanut cake, respectively. The 4th and 5th group would be fed with concentrate mixture with 20 and 40% sheanut cake and supplemented with probiotics. The experiment was carried for a period of 120 days. Growth trial was conducted and finally sheep were slaughtered for carcass characteristics. The average slaughter weights were $23.70^a \pm 0.24$, $23.60^a \pm 0.21$, $24.30^{ab} \pm 0.27$, $24.90^b \pm 0.20$, and $25.00^b \pm 0.35$ for T₁, T₂, T₃, T₄ and T₅ experimental diets. The dressing percentage on slaughter weight was significantly ($P > 0.05$) higher in T₅ group when compared with other four experimental rations. The dressing per cent on slaughter weight was increased as the sheanut cake per cent increased in the diets. Dressing per cent was more in T₃ and T₅ containing probiotic when compared to T₂ and T₄, indicates that inclusion of probiotics in the diets containing sheanut cake has increased dressing percentage.

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Author for correspondence :

R. PRASANNA KUMAR
Krishi Vigyan Kendra,
Mamnoor, WARANGAL
(TELANGANA) INDIA
Email : repalleprasanna
kumar@gmail.com

See end of the article for
authors' affiliations