Abstract

The conception, fertility and prolificacy rates were evaluated in hair ewes randomly distributed in a control group (n = 72) that received 800 g DM of a commercial concentrate, a molasses group (n = 51) which was fed 717.6 g DM of the commercial concentrate + 80.25 g DM of cane molasses, and an oil group (n = 85) that was supplied with 726.8 g DM of the commercial concentrate + 30 g DM of corn oil as a source of polyunsaturated fatty acids. The conception and fertility rates were similar among treatments (p > 0.05). The prolificacy in the oil group (1.79) was higher (p > 0.05) than that in the molasses group and control groups (1.55 and 1.46 respectively). The addition of polyunsaturated fatty acids increased the rate of prolificacy in hair sheep.

Keywords

Corn oil, fertility rate, conception rate, prolificacy, polyunsaturated fatty acids