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## **Carcass and non-carcass component characteristics of lambs fed with cassava wastewater dregs in replacement of corn<sup>1</sup>**

## **Características de carcaça e componentes não-carcaça de cordeiros alimentados com borra de manipueira em substituição ao milho**

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### **Abstract**

The objective was to evaluate the effect of the substitution (0, 33, 66 and 100%) of corn by cassava wastewater dregs on carcass characteristics and non-carcass components of crossbred Santa Inês lambs. Forty male sheep, uncastrated with an average initial body weight of  $20 \pm 1.87$  kg and five months of age, were used. These were housed in individual pens in a randomized block design with four treatments and ten repetitions and slaughtered after 70 days of confinement. Quadratic effect ( $P < 0.05$ ) was observed for the empty body weight (EBW), hot carcass weight (HCW) and cold carcass weight (CCW) and carcass compactness index (CCI), with maximum points of 36.14, 19.45, 20.20 and  $0.31 \text{ kg cm}^{-1}$  for the replacement level of corn for cassava wastewater dregs, 50.0, 53.84, 54.04 and 45.45% respectively. There was also an effect ( $P < 0.05$ ) on the weights of the rumen and “Buchada”, with maximum points of 0.909 and 6.25 kg per replacement level, 49.11 and 51.29% respectively. As for retail cuts, only the efficiency of the leg was altered ( $P < 0.05$ ), having a linear increase while the other variables were not affected. Cassava wastewater dregs can be used in full as an alternative food in the diet of feedlot lambs without harming the main carcass characteristics and non-carcass components.

**Key words:** Alternative food. Meat. Organs. Cassava. Sheep.

### **Resumo**

Objetivou-se avaliar o efeito da substituição (0, 33, 66 e 100%) do milho pela borra de manipueira sobre as características de carcaça e componentes não-carcaça de cordeiros mestiços Santa Inês. Foram utilizados quarenta ovinos machos não castrados, com peso corporal inicial médio de  $20 \pm 1,87$  kg e cinco meses de idade. Estes foram confinados em baias individuais, em delineamento em blocos ao acaso, com quatro tratamentos e dez repetições, e abatidos após 70 dias de confinamento. Efeito

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quadrático ( $p < 0,05$ ) foi observado para o peso do corpo vazio (PCV), peso de carcaça quente (PCQ) e fria (PCF) e o índice de compactidade da carcaça (ICC), as mesmas apresentaram pontos de máxima de 36,14; 19,45; 20,20 e 0,31 kg cm<sup>-1</sup> ao nível de substituição do milho pela borra de manipueira de 50,0; 53,84; 54,04 e 45,45%, respectivamente. Também houve efeito ( $p < 0,05$ ) sobre os pesos do rúmen e da buchada, com ponto de máxima de 0,909 e 6,25 kg ao nível de substituição de 49,11 e 51,29%, respectivamente. Quanto aos cortes comerciais, apenas o rendimento da perna foi alterado ( $p < 0,05$ ) apresentando efeito linear crescente. Enquanto as demais variáveis não foram afetadas. A borra de manipueira pode ser utilizada de forma integral como alternativa alimentar na dieta de cordeiros em confinamento, sem prejudicar as principais características da carcaça e os componentes não-carcaça.

**Palavras-chave:** Alimentos alternativos. Carne. Órgãos. Mandioca. Ovinos.

## Introduction

The sheep cutting industry has been growing in some regions of Brazil, especially as an important activity for national livestock. In this activity, confinement is being considered as a viable alternative by allowing an intensification of animal production that is associated with reduced time to produce housing in term of the quantity and quality required by the market and accelerated returns on the capital employed (BARROS et al., 2015; REGO et al., 2015). In this production system, the fact is that conventional food concentrates, such as corn and soybean meal, are crucial for the rise in costs of confinement (XENOFONTE et al., 2009). They may represent about 70% of production costs because these ingredients have greatly varying prices throughout the year due to exports and use in food and in the diet of poultry and pork.

Agro-industrial waste stands out as an alternative for feeding ruminants in order to lessen production costs by replacing traditional ingredients, such as corn and soybeans. Also, the use of such waste in times of food shortages is common. Another important factor is to give a correct destination to these materials in order to reduce the impacts to the environment when disposed of improperly.

Cassava (*Manihot esculenta* Crantz) is a root widely consumed in Brazil. In its processing, for the production of flour or starch, various wastes, such as bark, between shell scrapings, bran and cassava wastewater, are generated (FERREIRA, 2013). Cassava wastewater is a yellowish liquid

obtained during the pressing of cassava for the production of flour or starch. This waste is a great potential polluter, due to its high rate of biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) and high concentration of hydrocyanic acid, which can cause significant environmental impacts, contaminating rivers and watercourses (SOUZA et al., 2014).

In the production of cassava flour and in starch industries, cassava wastewater is usually placed in large tanks or cisterns. During this liquid storage, decanting of its solid parts occurs, thus generating another residue, known in some regions as “cassava wastewater dregs”, an introduced paste form with higher dry matter content and a high concentration of starch as compared to cassava.

Some studies were conducted to evaluate cassava wastewater for feed ruminants (ALMEIDA et al., 2009; SANTOS FILHO et al., 2015; URBANO et al., 2015). However, there is a paucity of studies assessing the effects of cassava wastewater dregs for animal feed since this material exhibits very different nutritional characteristics from cassava wastewater. Due to its nutritional characteristics, this agro-industrial residue can be used in ruminant feed as an energy ingredient, replacing traditional ingredients, such as corn.

According to Cezar and Souza (2010), a correct assessment of housing is essential to meet the consumer market for meat that is in increasing demand and is increasingly demanding about quality. Therefore, the assessment of carcass yield and the proportion of commercial cuts, among other

factors, are important parameters in determining profitability ratios in the production chain of lamb (ALVES et al., 2013). Similarly, the proper conformation indicates proportional development in different anatomical regions that integrate it, so the best conformations are achieved when parts of higher value are well pronounced (ZUNDT et al., 2003). Calculating the carcass compactness indices and the leg indicates the relationship between muscle mass and fat and length and serves to evaluate the amount of material deposited per unit length, representing the evaluation of the conformation (CUNHA et al., 2002).

The objective was to evaluate the effects of replacing corn by cassava wastewater dregs on the characteristics of the housing and non-housing sheep feedlot components.

## Material and Methods

This research was previously approved by the Ethics Committee on Animal Use in Research (CEUA-UFRPE) with protocol number (23082.007295/2013), following the recommendations of the National Council for

Animal Experiment Control (National Council for Control of Animal Experimentation, CONCEA) for the protection of animals used for scientific purposes.

The experiment was conducted in the Feed Evaluation Laboratory for Small Ruminants III of the Department of Animal Science of the Universidade Federal Rural de Pernambuco (UFRPE), Recife, Brazil. Forty-eight lambs, non-castrated crossbred Santa Inês, with five months of age and average initial body weight of  $20 \pm 1.87$  kg, were confined for 70 days in individual stalls (1.0 m x 1.2 m), provided with a feeder and drinker. The animals were initially identified and treated against ecto and endo-parasites and previously adapted to the management and facilities for 30 days. The animals were fed *ad libitum* (at 8:00 and 15:00 hours) allowing their plenty of about 10% of the offered feed and had unrestricted access to water. The ingredients used in the experimental diets were Tifton-85 hay, spineless cactus (*Cochinillifera Nopalea* (L.) Salm Dyck cv Miúda), soybean meal, ground corn, cassava wastewater dregs, mineral salt, salt and urea (Table 1).

**Table 1.** Chemical composition of feed used in the diet.

Ingredients (g kg <sup>-1</sup> )	DM <sup>1</sup>	OM	CP	Ash	EE	NDFap	NFC	Starch	Calcium	Phosphorus
Corn	887.4	984.4	76.3	15.6	46.1	167.3	697.2	63.4	0.03	0.25
Cassava wastewater dregs	390.6	929.9	77.9	70.0	43.2	26.4	782.4	69.7	-	-
Soybean meal	881.4	927.8	478.7	72.7	18.1	137.0	296.2	8.2	0.34	0.58
Tifton hay	890.0	919.9	83.5	80.1	15.8	791.3	82.3	-	0.42	0.17
Cactus pear	128.6	852.6	52.0	147.3	7.4	291.9	520.5	13.7	2.5	0.24
Urea + Ammonium sulphate	990.0	991.0	2630.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sodium chloride	990.0	107.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mineral mix <sup>2</sup>	990.0	10.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

<sup>1</sup>g kg<sup>-1</sup>natural matter; DM dry matter, OM organic matter, CP crude protein, EE ether extract, NDFap neutral detergent fibre corrected for ash and protein, NFC non-fibre carbohydrates.

<sup>2</sup>Assurance levels provided by the manufacturer: calcium = 140 g, phosphorus = 70 g, magnesium = 1320 mg, iron = 2200 mg, cobalto = 140 mg, manganese = 3690 mg, zinc = 4700 mg, iodine = 61 mg, selenium = 45 mg, sulphur = 12 g, sodium = 148 g, and fluorine = 700 mg.

Tifton hay was triturated in a forage machine with an 8 mm sieve screen, and the forage was cut into a palm disintegrating machine. Cassava wastewater dregs were acquired in flour mills located in the city of Glória do Goitá, Pernambuco, Brazil and transported to the site of the experiment. Here, the cassava wastewater dregs were stored in plastic drums of 200 L and covered with mesh to keep out insects.

The treatments consisted of the replacement (0, 33, 66 and 100%) of corn by cassava wastewater dregs (Table 2). Diets were formulated based on NRC (2007) to meet weight gains of 200 g day<sup>-1</sup>. The experimental diets were provided in the form of complete mixing.

Weekly samples were collected from food andorts, which were placed in pre-labelled plastic bags and stored in a freezer (-18°C). Subsequently, the samples were predried in an oven with forced

ventilation at 55 °C and ground in a mill with sieves of 1 mm diameter to perform the chemical composition analysis, as the contents of dry matter (DM), ash, crude protein (CP), ether extract (EE), neutral detergent fibre (NDF) and acid detergent fibre (ADF), determined in accordance with methods INCT-CA G-003/1; M-001/1; N-001/1; G-005/1; F-002/1 and F-004/1 respectively, according to the methods described by Detmann et al. (2012).

To estimate the total digestible nutrients (TDN), a digestibility trial was carried out. Samples of 1.0 g of the concentrate and 0.5 g of hay, faeces and diet remains were incubated in a TNT bag (nonwoven fabric) for 288 hours in the rumen of a fistulated adult male buffalo. The remaining material was subjected to incubation with an acid detergent digestion residue, which was considered indigestible acid detergent fibre (iADF), according to INCT-CA method F-011/1 and according to the methodology Detmann et al. (2012).

**Table 2.** Quantity of ingredients and chemical composition of the experimental diets

Ingredients (g kg <sup>-1</sup> DM)	Replacement levels (%)			
	0	33	66	100
Corn	300.0	200.0	100.0	0.0
Cassava wastewater dregs	0.0	97.4	194.7	292.0
Soybean meal	143.0	143.0	143.0	143.0
Tifton hay	250.0	250.0	250.0	250.0
Cactus pear	293.0	293.0	293.0	293.0
Urea + Ammonium sulphate	0.0	2.6	5.3	8.0
Sodium chloride	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
Mineral mix	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0
Chemical composition				
Dry matter *	325.3	311.2	298.3	286.4
Crude protein <sup>1</sup>	137.0	142.3	147.8	153.3
Ether extract <sup>1</sup>	27.2	23.7	20.2	16.7
Neutral detergent fibre <sub>ap</sub> <sup>1</sup>	327.1	316.3	305.5	294.7
Acid detergent fibre <sup>1</sup>	152.7	150.3	147.9	145.5
Non-fibre carbohydrates <sup>1</sup>	424.6	431.0	437.4	443.8
Starch <sup>1</sup>	242.3	246.7	251.1	255.5
Total digestible nutrients <sup>1</sup>	603.0	624.8	631.1	634.7
Metabolizable energy (kcal kg <sup>-1</sup> DM)	2180	2259	2281	2295
Calcium <sup>1</sup>	9.8	9.8	9.7	9.7
Phosphorus <sup>1</sup>	2.7	2.5	2.2	2.0

\*g kg<sup>-1</sup> natural matter; <sup>1</sup> g kg<sup>-1</sup> dry matter.

To estimate the total carbohydrates (TC), the equation proposed by Sniffen et al. (1992) was used:  $TC (g/kg) = 1000 - (CP + EE + ash)$  and non-fibre carbohydrates (NFC); we used the method described by Hall (2000) in which  $NFC (g/kg) = 1000 - [(CP - urea - derived CP + urea) + NDFap + EE + ash]$  where CP = crude protein, EE = ether extract, NDFap = neutral detergent fibre corrected for ash and protein.

To estimate the total digestible nutrients (TDN), the equation described by Weiss (1999) was adopted, in which  $TDN (\%) = (\%CPd + \%NDFapd + \%NFCd + (\%EEd \times 2.25) - 7)$  (CPd, digestible crude protein; NDFapd, digestible neutral detergent fibre corrected to protein and ash; NFCd, digestible non-fibrous carbohydrate; EEd, digestible ether extract). To calculate the metabolizable energy (ME), digestible energy (DE) was initially calculated as the product of TDN and the factor 4,409/100, considering the concentration of MS of 82% of ED.

For the results of the dry matter intake (DMI), total digestible nutrients intake (TNDI) of neutral detergent fibre (NDF) and digestibility of dry matter (DDM) and average daily gain (ADG), we used the results and discussion as obtained by Vasconcelos (2013).

After 70 days of confinement, the animals were subjected to a fasting diet and water solids for 16 hours. Immediately before slaughter, they were weighed to obtain the body weight at slaughter (BWS). The animals were stunned for concussion with a penetrating captive bolt pistol (Ctrade®, Tec 10 PP) driven by an exploding cartridge, followed by bleeding of the carotid artery and jugular vein section (BRASIL, 1997).

After skinning and gutting, the head and feet were removed and the hot carcass weight (HCW) recorded. Then, the carcasses were put in cold storage, with an average temperature of 4°C, and kept for 24 hours suspended on hooks by the tendon of the gastrocnemius muscle. They were

then weighed, getting the cold carcass weight (CCW), according to the methodology of Cezar and Sousa (2007). Also, carcass pH readings were taken at 0 hours and 24 hours *pos mortem* from the *Semimembranosus* muscle with the aid of a pH meter/insertion thermometer (Testo 205).

The organs [tongue, trachea, lungs, liver, heart, diaphragm, spleen, pancreas, gall bladder, kidneys and thymus], reproductive system [testicles, penis, bladder, and glands], the viscera [oesophagus, rumen, reticulum, omasum, abomasum, small intestine and large intestine] and the by-products [blood, head, feet, skin, internal fat and perirenal fat] were weighed to measure the non-carcass components. The emptied viscera was washed and re-weighed according to the scheme proposed by Silva Sobrinho and Gonzaga Neto (2001).

“Buchada” constituents were considered as blood, liver, kidneys, lungs, spleen, tongue, heart, omentum, rumen, reticulum, omasum and small intestine (MEDEIROS et al., 2008). “Panelada” were considered “Buchada” constituents increased by the head and legs (CLEMENTINO et al., 2007).

The gastrointestinal tract (GIT) was weighed filled then emptied and weighed to determine the empty body weight (EBW), and the biological or true yield [ $BY = (CCW/EBW) \times 100$ ] were also calculated for hot carcass yield [ $HCY = (HCW/BWS) \times 100$ ], cold carcass yield [ $CCY = (CCW/BWS) \times 100$ ] and weight loss by cooling [ $LC = (HCW - CCW)/HCW \times 100$ ] according to methodology of Cezar and Sousa (2007).

Subjective evaluations were carried for conformation, finishing, renal-pelvic fat and morphometric measurements of carcasses according to the methodology proposed by Cezar and Sousa (2007). The carcass compactness index (CCI) and the leg compactness index (LCI) were also calculated using the following formulas: [ $CCI (kg\ cm^{-1}) = (CCW/internal\ length\ carcass)$ ] and [ $LCI (cm\ cm^{-1}) = hind\ width/leg\ length$ , second (CEZAR; SOUSA, 2007)]. Later the tail was



removed, and the carcass was divided sagittally and into six anatomical regions composed of the neck, shoulder, rib, saw, loin and leg. Their yields were calculated in relation to half reconstituted housing, according to the methodology proposed by Cezar and Sousa (2007).

In the left half carcass a cross-section was made between the 12th and 13th ribs to measure the *Longissimus* muscle area (LMA), and the muscle contour was traced on a plastic sheet transparency for the subsequent determination of the area in a digital planimetric machine (HAFF®, DIGIPLAN model) (COSTA et al., 2012). Also in the *L. dorsi*, with the aid of a digital calliper, the rib fat thickness (RFT) was measured, obtained at a distance of  $\frac{3}{4}$  from the medial side of the second muscle, the methodology Cezar and Sousa (2007).

The experimental design was a randomized block, formed according to the initial weight of the animals, according to the following model  $Y_{ij} = \mu + T_i + b_j + e_{ij}$  where  $Y_{ij}$  = the observed value of the dependent variable,  $\mu$  = the overall average, the treatment effect = ( $i = 1$  to 4),  $b_j$  = the effect of block  $j$  ( $j = 1$  to 4) and  $e_{ij}$  = the experimental error. Data were submitted to variance and regression analysis, considering the level of 5% probability for the type I error, using procedures PROC GLM and PROC REG of statistical package SAS (2002).

## Results and Discussion

Replacing corn by cassava wastewater dregs influenced ( $P < 0.05$ ) average daily gain (ADG), empty body weight (EBW) and hot (HCW) and cold carcass weight (CCW), with quadratic behaviour (Table 3).

The ADG variables EBW, HCW and CCW showed maximum values of 295 g day<sup>-1</sup>, 36.14, 19.45, and 20.20 kg to the level of replacing of corn,

49.96, 50.0, 53.84 and 54.04% respectively. There not being significant changes to DMI and TDNI by replacing the quadratic behaviour of ADG, may have been due to a greater availability of nutrients for tissue deposition on the substrate, depending on the type of starch and starch content present in the cassava wastewater dregs. According to McAllister et al. (1993), the structural carbohydrate present in the grain and protein matrix of starch granules is the main factor behind the existing digestibility differences between sources of starch. According to Zeoula et al. (1999), cassava has a higher degradability of starch when compared to corn due to lack of a pericarp protein matrix and the higher amylopectin content of the starch granules. Consequently, we see the influence of ADG, EBW, HCW and CCW (Table 3).

Body weight at slaughter (PCA) and the contents of the gastrointestinal tract (GIT) were not affected ( $P > 0.05$ ) by the replacement of corn by cassava wastewater dregs, with average values of 37.91 and 4.75 kg respectively (Table 3). There was also no influence on hot carcass yield (HCY), cold carcass yield (CCY) and biological yield (BY), with average values of 49.54, 48.0 and 56.63% respectively (Table 3). Values of hot carcass yield (HCY) (47.97%) were observed by Furusho-Garcia et al. (2010), who worked with Santa Inês pure bred sheep in confinement and slaughtered at 38.2 kg. And lower values, observed 41.79% and 40.14% for HCY and CCY respectively, were found by Faria et al. (2011), who evaluated different ways of processing cassava hulls in diets of sheep slaughtered at 30.72 kg. Santos Filho et al. (2015) found HCY values of 53.6, 53.1, 53.4, 50.8 and 50.9% with the inclusion 0; 25; 50; 75 and 100% of cassava wastewater (liquid form) replacing corn respectively in the diet of Santa Ines sheep slaughtered at 30.7, 31.3, 29.4, 29.9 and 26.5 kg of body weight respectively.

**Table 3.** Intake, average daily gain and carcass characteristics of lambs fed with cassava wastewater dregs in replacement for corn.

Variables	Replacement levels (%)				SEM	Eq	P-value
	0	33	66	100			
DMI (g day <sup>-1</sup> )*	1254.90	1419.05	1309.86	1275.07	27.539	$\hat{Y} = 1314.72$	0.149
TDNI (g day <sup>-1</sup> )*	752.82	827.81	824.74	795.99	19.365	$\hat{Y} = 800.34$	0.505
NDFI (g day <sup>-1</sup> )*	382.00	394.86	352.09	312.49	8.365	1	0.001
DMD (g day <sup>-1</sup> )*	601.33	608.88	635.44	634.12	2.654	2	0.025
ADG (g day <sup>-1</sup> )*	242.60	283.00	255.20	252.10	0.005	3	0.036
BWS (kg)	36.62	39.53	37.72	37.81	0.532	$\hat{Y} = 37.91$	0.070
EBW (kg)	31.86	34.97	33.12	32.77	0.493	4	0.026
GIT (kg)	4.73	4.55	4.59	5.03	0.107	$\hat{Y} = 4.75$	0.367
HCW (kg)	17.97	19.75	18.90	18.60	0.301	5	0.041
CCW (kg)	17.37	19.20	18.28	18.02	0.293	6	0.028
HCY (%)	49.05	49.95	50.02	49.17	0.237	$\hat{Y} = 49.54$	0.332
CCY (%)	47.43	48.55	48.39	47.64	0.227	$\hat{Y} = 48.00$	0.221
BY (%)	56.40	56.44	57.02	56.72	0.215	$\hat{Y} = 56.63$	0.735
LC (%)	3.32	3.16	3.26	3.11	0.100	$\hat{Y} = 3.21$	0.883
RFT (mm)	1.53	1.34	1.63	1.60	0.073	$\hat{Y} = 1.53$	0.379
LMA (cm <sup>2</sup> )	10.66	11.22	10.67	11.09	0.164	$\hat{Y} = 10.91$	0.566
pH (0 hours)	6.81	6.84	6.86	6.78	0.022	$\hat{Y} = 6.93$	0.683
pH (24 hours)	5.65	5.73	5.74	5.74	0.021	$\hat{Y} = 5.71$	0.297
Regression equation							
TDNI (g day <sup>-1</sup> )*	$^1\hat{Y} = 385.07 + 0.399X - 0.0115X^2$						
DMD (g day <sup>-1</sup> )*	$^2\hat{Y} = 589.76 + 0.462X$						
ADG (g day <sup>-1</sup> )*	$^3\hat{Y} = 0.247 + 0.0009784X - 0.00000979X^2$						
EBW (kg)	$^4\hat{Y} = 32.18 + 0.0800X - 0.0008X^2$						
HCW (kg)	$^5\hat{Y} = 18.13 + 0.04954X - 0.00046X^2$						
CCW (kg)	$^6\hat{Y} = 17.54 + 0.04972X - 0.00046X^2$						

DMI = dry matter intake; TDNI = total digestible nutrient intake; NDFI = neutral detergent fiber intake; DMD = dry matter digestibility; ADG = average daily gain; BWS = body weight at slaughter; EBW = empty body weight; GIT = gastrointestinal tract; HCW = hot carcass weight, CCW = cold carcass weight; HCY = hot carcass yield; CCY = cold carcass yield; BY = biological yield; LC = loss by cooling; RFT = rib fat thickness; LMA = *Longissimus* muscle area; SEM = standard error of the mean; Eq = equation; X = level of cassava wastewater dregs in replacement for corn. \* Vasconcelos (2013).

The loss by cooling (LC) was not influenced ( $P>0.05$ ) by the replacement of corn by cassava wastewater dregs (Table 3). It was within the range proposed by Martins et al. (2000), ranging between 1 and 7%. The absence of the influence of diets on CL, showed consistent results with RFT, which also did not change, with an average value of 1.53 mm (Table 3). This has the function of protecting against moisture losses during cooling. Urano et al. (2006) found an average of 1.52 mm for RTF in Santa Ines

lambs with a body slaughter weight of 37.7 kg, a body weight close to that of our study. RTF protects against moisture losses during cooling.

The low value found for RTF can be related to the containment time being 70 days, the slaughter of the animals occurring before the fat initiated a greater deposition of fat cover on the housing. Gerrard and Grant (2006) stated that development in body adipose tissue is later, developing just after the peak of muscle growth. Moreover, tropical



breeds of sheep, such as Santa Inês sheep, have the characteristic of depositing internal fat in the omental, mesentery and perirenal region, working with energy reserves to be mobilized during times of food shortage (MEDEIROS et al., 2008). Thus, in these breeds, subcutaneous fat deposition occurs late.

There was no effect ( $P>0.05$ ) the substitution of corn by cassava wastewater dregs on *Longissimus* muscle area (LMA), averaging 10.91 cm<sup>2</sup> (Table 3). According to Hashimoto et al. (2012), the LMA determined in the loin (*Longissimus dorsi*) is considered as a representative measure of the muscularity of carcasses and is used as a parameter for the classification and evaluation of quality and performance. Thus, the results for LMA can be considered satisfactory, indicating good muscularity of the carcasses.

The pH of carcasses at 0 and 24 hours was not affected ( $P>0.05$ ) by the replacement (Table 3). Silva Sobrinho et al. (2005) reported that the value of final pH of lambs ranged from 5.5 to 5.8, i.e., the pH observed at 24 hours is normal. This observation is important, since pH decline *pos mortem* has a significant impact on the qualitative characteristics of meat (HOPKINS et al., 2011).

There was no influence of the replacement ( $P>0.05$ ) on the weight of cold half-carcasses (WCHC) and the weights of meat cuts, neck, shoulder, rib, saw, loin and leg (Table 4). This similarity in weights of cuts reinforces the law of anatomical harmony (BOCCARD; DUMONT, 1960). According to these authors, for carcasses with similar weights and quantities of fat, almost all body regions are in similar proportions, whatever the conformation genotype considered.

**Table 4.** Weights and yields of meat cuts of lambs fed with cassava wastewater dregs in replacement for corn.

Variables	Replacement levels (%)				SEM	Eq	P-value
	0	33	66	100			
WCHC (kg)	8.41	9.11	8.80	8.61	0.133	$\hat{Y} = 8.73$	0.143
Neck (kg)	0.955	1.094	1.022	0.994	0.021	$\hat{Y} = 1.016$	0.058
Shoulder (kg)	1.493	1.578	1.530	1.506	0.022	$\hat{Y} = 1.527$	0.414
Rib (kg)	1.324	1.471	1.385	1.357	0.026	$\hat{Y} = 1.384$	0.169
Saw (kg)	1.204	1.157	1.134	1.114	0.032	$\hat{Y} = 1.152$	0.760
Loin (kg)	0.841	0.920	0.845	0.825	0.018	$\hat{Y} = 0.857$	0.155
Leg (kg)	2.598	2.897	2.881	2.815	0.051	$\hat{Y} = 2.798$	0.064
Yield (%)							
Neck	11.39	12.00	11.62	11.56	0.174	$\hat{Y} = 11.64$	0.649
Shoulder	17.80	17.33	17.38	17.49	0.131	$\hat{Y} = 17.50$	0.616
Rib	15.76	16.11	15.78	15.71	0.185	$\hat{Y} = 15.84$	0.882
Saw	14.22	12.70	12.86	12.92	0.294	$\hat{Y} = 13.18$	0.245
Loin	9.97	10.07	9.63	9.56	0.116	$\hat{Y} = 9.81$	0.358
Leg	30.84	31.76	32.72	32.74	0.271	1	0.036
Regression equation							
Leg	$\hat{Y} = 30.78 + 0.0408X$						

WCHC = weight of cold half-carcass; SEM = standard error of the mean; Eq = equation; X = level of cassava wastewater dregs in replacement for corn.

With regard to yields from the meat cuts, only the yield of the leg was influenced ( $P < 0.05$ ) by the replacement, presenting an increasing linear behaviour (Table 4). This is an important result since the leg is a region with a higher yield of meat and is one of the most valued portions of the housing. The sum of the yields of shoulder and leg was 49.52%. These results corroborate those reported by Furusho-Garcia et al. (2004), in whose study the shoulder and the shank represented approximately 50% of the housing, these being the cuts that best predict the total content of the carcass tissues.

There was no effect ( $P > 0.05$ ) of the replacement on the hind width, thoracic width, hind perimeter, internal carcass length, external carcass length, thoracic depth, thoracic perimeter, leg length, leg

perimeter or leg compactness index (LCI) (Table 5).

The carcass compactness index (CCI) was influenced quadratically ( $P < 0.05$ ) by the replacement of corn by cassava wastewater dregs (Table 5), with a maximum point of 0.31 kg cm<sup>-1</sup> to the 51.29% level of replacement. CCI showed the same behaviour as CCW, as this variable is calculated by the ratio of CCW and internal carcass length. The higher the ICC, the greater deposition of muscle tissue per unit area and the better the quality of the casting is (AMORIM et al., 2008). CCI and LCE showed good results in the present study, indicating a good deposition of muscle tissue per unit length, considering that the animals of this study were crossbred Santa Inês sheep.

**Table 5.** Carcass morphometric measurements and subjective evaluations of lambs fed with cassava wastewater dregs in replacement for corn.

Variables	Replacement levels (%)				SEM	Eq	P-value
	0	33	66	100			
Hind width (cm)	22.44	23.27	23.30	22.84	0.205	$\hat{Y} = 22.96$	0.393
Thoracic width (cm)	22.74	23.50	22.79	22.35	0.257	$\hat{Y} = 22.84$	0.491
Hind perimeter (cm)	62.77	64.41	63.92	63.94	0.400	$\hat{Y} = 63.76$	0.381
Internal carcass length (cm)	63.98	64.03	64.12	64.60	0.342	$\hat{Y} = 64.18$	0.924
External carcass length (cm)	57.90	59.00	58.85	57.85	0.437	$\hat{Y} = 58.40$	0.660
Leg length (cm)	42.19	42.28	42.61	42.33	0.279	$\hat{Y} = 42.35$	0.960
Thoracic depth (cm)	26.95	27.65	27.20	27.25	0.214	$\hat{Y} = 27.26$	0.683
Thoracic perimeter (cm)	70.67	72.87	72.01	70.96	0.442	$\hat{Y} = 71.62$	0.093
Leg perimeter (cm)	38.46	40.88	41.36	40.98	0.478	$\hat{Y} = 40.42$	0.070
LCI (cm cm <sup>-1</sup> )	0.53	0.55	0.55	0.54	0.004	$\hat{Y} = 0.54$	0.544
CCI (kg cm <sup>-1</sup> )	0.27	0.30	0.28	0.28	0.005	1	0.018
Conformation (1-5)	2.6	3.0	2.9	2.7	0.084	$\hat{Y} = 2.82$	0.457
Finishing (1-5)	2.6	2.9	2.6	2.8	0.087	$\hat{Y} = 2.76$	0.409
Renal-pelvic fat (1-3)	2.7	2.9	2.9	2.5	0.053	$\hat{Y} = 2.76$	0.052
Regression equation							
ICP (kg cm <sup>-1</sup> )	${}^1\hat{Y} = 0.27 + 0.00079X - 0.0000077X^2$						

LCI = leg compactness index; CCI = carcass compactness index; SEM = standard error of the mean; Eq = equation; X = level of cassava wastewater dregs in replacement for corn.

Conformation traits, finishing and renal-pelvic fat were not affected ( $P>0.05$ ) by the diets (Table 5). According to the methodology Cezar and Souza (2010), carcasses can be classified as having reasonably good conformation according to the average finish and perirenal fat and the average overall fat. The carcasses of the animals showed a very uniform development, regardless of the

replacement of cassava wastewater dregs.

The weights of the tongue, lungs, trachea, heart, spleen, liver, gallbladder, diaphragm, pancreas, thymus and kidneys were not affected ( $P>0.05$ ) with the substitution of corn by cassava wastewater dregs (Table 6). Also, the total weight of organs (TWO), as well as relations with BWS and EBW, was not affected by the diets (Table 6).

**Table 6.** Weights and yields of the organs of lambs fed with cassava wastewater dregs in replacement for corn.

Variables (kg)	Replacement levels (%)				SEM	Eq	P-value
	0	33	66	100			
Tongue	0.085	0.093	0.090	0.088	0.002	$\hat{Y} = 0.089$	0.571
Lungs	0.405	0.454	0.411	0.384	0.011	$\hat{Y} = 0.413$	0.158
Trachea	0.130	0.141	0.139	0.137	0.004	$\hat{Y} = 0.137$	0.847
Heart	0.169	0.185	0.163	0.168	0.004	$\hat{Y} = 0.171$	0.228
Spleen	0.079	0.069	0.092	0.073	0.006	$\hat{Y} = 0.078$	0.558
Liver	0.714	0.759	0.740	0.693	0.015	$\hat{Y} = 0.726$	0.367
Gall bladder	0.031	0.032	0.037	0.034	0.002	$\hat{Y} = 0.034$	0.848
Pancreas	0.080	0.084	0.081	0.096	0.006	$\hat{Y} = 0.085$	0.741
Diaphragm	0.128	0.147	0.141	0.135	0.004	$\hat{Y} = 0.137$	0.299
Reproductive system	0.490	0.557	0.538	0.545	0.022	$\hat{Y} = 0.533$	0.677
Thymus	0.041	0.039	0.036	0.034	0.002	$\hat{Y} = 0.038$	0.781
Kidneys	0.120	0.132	0.117	0.127	0.002	$\hat{Y} = 0.124$	0.132
TWO	2.475	2.695	2.587	2.517	0.045	$\hat{Y} = 2.568$	0.273
TWO/BWS (%)	6.76	6.82	6.85	6.67	0.087	$\hat{Y} = 6.77$	0.889
TWO/EBW (%)	7.77	7.71	7.81	7.70	0.092	$\hat{Y} = 7.74$	0.966

TWO = total weight of organs; BWS = body weight at slaughter; EBW = empty body weight; SEM = standard error of the mean; Eq = equation; X = level of cassava wastewater dregs in replacement for corn.

The weights of organs were probably not affected because DMI and TDNI did not vary with the replacement. Medeiros et al. (2008) observed that an increase in concentrate levels in the diets stimulated the development of the liver and gallbladder on the basis of metabolizable energy content and other nutrients. According to Van Soest (1994), the liver is an important organ, acting on several metabolic processes and actively participating in energy metabolism, that captures

about 80% of propionate passing through the portal system for conversion into glucose.

The diets did not influence ( $P>0.05$ ) oesophagus, reticulum, omasum, abomasum weights, the weights of the small and large intestines, the total weight of viscera (TWV), the weight of the head, feet, skin, blood and internal fat and perirenal fat or the total weight of the by-products (Table 7).

There was a significance ( $P<0.05$ ) in terms of the weight of the rumen with the replacement (Table 7), having quadratic behaviour with a maximum point of 0.909 kg at the 45.45% replacement level. This effect of increased rumen weight may be related to NDF, which showed a quadratic effect with replacement (Table 3). According to Van

Soest (1994), the growth of the reticulum-rumen can be influenced by several factors, including diet, especially in terms of NDF content. Faria et al. (2011), using different ways of processing cassava peel in sheep feed, did not observe changes in the weight of the rumen, reticulum, omasum or abomasum.

**Table 7.** Weight of empty viscera and by-products of lambs fed with cassava wastewater dregs in replacement for corn.

Variables (kg)	Replacement levels (%)					Eq	P-value
	0	33	66	100	SEM		
Oesophagus	0.062	0.065	0.064	0.057	0.002	$\hat{Y} = 0.062$	0.393
Rumen	0.761	0.885	0.790	0.763	0.018	1	0.016
Reticulum	0.125	0.148	0.118	0.136	0.004	$\hat{Y} = 0.132$	0.097
Omasum	0.102	0.115	0.110	0.082	0.004	$\hat{Y} = 0.102$	0.051
Abomasum	0.146	0.156	0.141	0.142	0.004	$\hat{Y} = 0.146$	0.601
Small intestine	0.662	0.728	0.685	0.731	0.018	$\hat{Y} = 0.701$	0.515
Large intestine	0.359	0.366	0.315	0.335	0.008	$\hat{Y} = 0.344$	0.128
Total weight of viscera	2.218	2.465	2.223	2.246	0.040	$\hat{Y} = 2.288$	0.085
Head	2.157	2.255	2.134	2.175	0.027	$\hat{Y} = 2.18$	0.301
Feet	1.034	1.039	1.011	0.995	0.014	$\hat{Y} = 1.02$	0.657
Skin	3.130	3.185	2.973	3.009	0.067	$\hat{Y} = 3.07$	0.645
Blood	1.575	1.630	1.643	1.626	0.040	$\hat{Y} = 1.61$	0.928
Internal fat	0.134	0.150	0.120	0.121	0.009	$\hat{Y} = 0.130$	0.693
Perirenal fat	0.426	0.543	0.500	0.387	0.024	$\hat{Y} = 0.46$	0.064
Total weight of by-products	8.456	8.802	8.381	8.314	0.129	$\hat{Y} = 8.48$	0.454
Regression equation							
Rumen	$^1\hat{Y} = 0.775 + 0.0030X - 0.000033X^2$						

SEM = standard error of the mean; Eq = equation; X = level of cassava wastewater dregs in replacement for corn.

There was no effect ( $P>0.05$ ) of the diets on the weight of the “Panelada”, yields of viscera, by-products, “Buchada” and yours relations with BWS and EBW (Table 8).

There was a significance ( $P<0.05$ ) of the weight of “Buchada” with the substitution of

corn by cassava wastewater dregs (Table 8), with quadratic behaviour and a maximum point at 6.25 kg of the 49.11% replacement level. This result of the weight of “Buchada” corroborates the weight of the rumen (Table 7), which also showed a quadratic behaviour, possibly influenced by NDFI.

**Table 8.** Weights and yields the empty viscera, by-products and “Buchada” and “Panelada” of lambs fed with cassava wastewater dregs in replacement for corn.

Variables	Replacement levels (%)				SEM	Eq	P-value
	0	33	66	100			
Vicera/BWS (%)	6.07	6.24	5.91	5.94	0.086	$\hat{Y} = 6.04$	0.510
Vicera/EBW (%)	6.98	7.06	6.75	6.85	0.099	$\hat{Y} = 6.91$	0.710
By-products/BWS (%)	23.16	22.27	22.17	22.00	0.240	$\hat{Y} = 22.40$	0.245
By-products/EBW (%)	26.58	25.17	25.28	25.37	0.256	$\hat{Y} = 25.61$	0.059
Buchada (kg) <sup>a</sup>	5.37	6.01	5.60	5.47	0.096	1	0.041
Buchada/BWS (%)	14.67	15.22	14.85	14.48	0.131	$\hat{Y} = 14.81$	0.235
Buchada/EBW (%)	16.84	17.21	16.94	16.71	0.144	$\hat{Y} = 16.92$	0.662
Panelada (kg) <sup>b</sup>	8.56	9.30	8.75	8.65	0.126	$\hat{Y} = 8.81$	0.080
Panelada/ BWS (%)	23.43	23.56	23.19	22.89	0.151	$\hat{Y} = 23.27$	0.398
Panelada/ EBW (%)	26.90	26.63	26.45	26.40	0.167	$\hat{Y} = 26.60$	0.674
Regression equation							
Buchada (kg) <sup>a</sup>	$^1 \hat{Y} = 5.44 + 0.0167X - 0.00017X^2$						

BWS = body weight at slaughter; EBW = empty body weight.

<sup>a</sup>Sum of the weights blood, liver, kidneys, lungs, spleen, tongue, heart, omentum, rumen, reticulum, omasum, small intestine; <sup>b</sup> Buchada + head + feet; SEM = standard error of the mean; Eq = equation; X = level of cassava wastewater dregs in replacement for corn.

Similar values for buchada and panelada yields were found by Clementino et al. (2007), with 15% and 24.06% respectively while Medeiros et al. (2008) found values of 15.26 and 18.26% of buchada yield compared to BWS and EBW respectively. According Pompeu et al. (2013) the processing of these organs should be performed in order to add value to the product, increasing revenues of sheep breeding so it becomes a profitable activity, especially for small farmers.

## Conclusion

Cassava wastewater dregs can be used as an alternative food in the diet of feedlot sheep because they do not affect carcass characteristics and non-carcass components.

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