MILK PRODUCTION AND COMPOSITION OF SANTA INÊS EWES SUBMITTED TO DIFFERENT LEVELS OF ENERGY DURING GESTATION AND LACTATION AND PERFORMANCE OF ITS LAMBS


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OBJECTIVES
Evaluate the influence of feeding energy levels during the last third of gestation and lactation on ewe’s milk production and composition and on its lamb’s performance.

MATERIAL AND METHODS
- Site: individual covered pens (2.0 m²) at the sheep raising sector of the State University of Londrina.
- Animals: fifty-five crossbred of Santa Ines ewes (and its lambs) with 107 days of gestation, average live weight of 52.4 kg and average body condition score of 3.0 at the beginning of the experiment.
- Treatments: ad libitum rations with 2.0; 2.2 and 2.4 Mcal of ME/kg of DM during late gestation and lactation.
- Experimental design: pregnant ewes were randomly assigned among treatments.

RESULTS

CONCLUSIONS
Despite the fact that energy concentrations tested did not affect the percentage of milk compounds, lambs raised by females receiving more energetic feed showed higher growth rate due to the greater availability of nutrients provided by higher amounts of milk produced.