

SUMMARY

Sheep in Turkey is heavily dependent on pasture grazing with no supplement from spring to winter time. During summer animals are fed on poor quality dried pastures and in most cases their maintenance requirements are not met. On the other hand, hand feeding with chopped cereal straw or poor quality roughages with some barley is common feeding practise in winter. Urea molasses feed blocks (UMFB) provide nutrients to the rumen microbes and to animal in small amounts throughout the day. The purpose of this work was to study the performance of sheep and their lambs after one and half month from the birth fed poor quality chopped cereal straw with or without urea molasses feed blocks during hand feeding in winter. Fifty mature Akkaraman sheep with their lambs were divided in ten groups of five and randomly allocated to a control or UMFB treatment. All animals were offered daily 1600 g cracked barley per head and mixture of chopped oat straw and grass hay ad libitum. The UMFB was composed of urea 5%, salt 4.5 %, sulphur 0.5%, cement 10%, calcium oxide 5%, molasses 40%, wheat bran 28%, sunflower seed cake 7%. After 70 days of trail, the consumption of block was 207 g/head/day for UMFB treatment group. The intake of straw and weight gain were not statistically different for the two groups of sheep but weight gain of lambs from UMFB group was found significantly higher then that of other group of lambs.