

EFFECT OF DIETARY PROTEIN CONTENT ON SECOND REPRODUCTION CYCLE OF LOCAL RABBIT DOES AND THEIR LITTERS

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ABSTRACT

The influence of diet protein content on reproductive performance and milk production was studied in forty six local rabbit does with effect on their litters during the second lactation. Does were divided into three groups offered one of three diets formulated to give the same digestible energy (DE) content (2600 kkal) and different digestible protein (DP) content (15, 17 and 19 % DP for diet T, A and B respectively). Diets were supplied *ad libitum* between parturition and weaning.

The use of high protein diets don't show effect in does weight at partum and between partum and weaning, consecutively does' weight gain during second lactation.

Does given B diet showed significantly higher protein intake a day at lactation (58.08g for group B vs 52.94g for group A vs 44.34g for group T) ($p < 0.01$), but no difference was detected in the digestible energy intake a day and the feed intake a day between partum and weaning (294.5g for group T vs 311.1g for group A vs 305.8g for group B). The litters size and weight at partum and at weaning were not affected by the diets but the effect of litter size in milk production during 21 days post partum (three weeks of second lactation) was cleared in the three diets ($p < 0.0001$). There was no significant difference on milk production between the three diets.

Key words: Rabbit doe, local population, diet, digestible protein, reproductive performance