
Determination of the potential of urea fermentation of the main roughages used in sheep diets

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SUMMARY

On a number of four, 56 kg wethers fitted with ruminal cannulae and duodenal re-entrant cannulae, aspects regarding the influence of carbohydrates source (wheat straw, corn cobs and corn stalks) on urea metabolism were studied. Urea was per-fused intraruminally during the ingestion of the feed. The roughages were analyzed for their solubility in rumen by various techniques in order to correlate the energy and nitrogen sources and thus optimise the synthesis of the ruminal microbial protein. The amount of non-protein nitrogen (urea) which can be metabolised in the rumen according to the administered roughages was calculated.

Keywords: wethers, carbohydrates, urea metabolism, ruminal microbial protein