Follicular dynamics, steroid hormones and blood metabolites concentrations during long term protein flushing in subtropical ewes

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Abstract:

The aim of this study was to investigate the influence of long-term high-protein flushing on ovarian function and metabolic status in Ossimi ewes. Fourteen cycling Ossimi ewes were divided into high protein (210 % of maintenance crude protein) or treatment group (TG; n = 7) and control group (CG; n = 7). Oestrous was synchronized by PGF2α, monitored ultrasonographically daily for two oestrous cycles. The CG fed a maintenance diet (9.5 % CP) through-out the experiment. The mean number of small (2–2.9 mm), medium (3–5 mm) ovarian follicles, and follicular waves were higher (P

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