Effects of dietary acetic and propionic acid supplementation on performance of weaning Nubian goats at different environmental temperatures

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Abstract

The purpose of this experiment was to investigate the effects of acetic and propionic acid supplementation in the diet on growth performance of weaning goats under different environmental temperatures. Thirty female Nubian weaning goats used in this experiment were randomly allocated to 3 group diets (control group, 1.5% acetic acid, and 1.5% propionic acid) × 2 ambient temperatures (controlled temperature and high temperature) treatments, with 5 goats per treatment. Each goat pen was equipped with a feed trough and a water bowl, and feed and water were provided *ad libitum* for 24 weeks. The temperature in the high temperature group was 30°C, and in the controlled temperature group the temperature was reduced from 30°C to 24°C by two degrees per two weeks. The results of the experiment showed that acetic acid supplementation tended to increase feed intake and weight gain in 19 - 24 weeks. While propionic acid tended to increase weight gain and feed efficiency (P<0.01) in 7 -12 week. Raising goats at controlled temperature resulted higher feed intake in all weeks during 6 months experiment, however, the feed efficiency was lower compared with high temperature. There was interaction between acetic and propionic acid with temperature on feed intake, weight gain and feed efficiency.

Keywords: Acetic acid, propionic acid, Nubian, feed intake, weight gain, feed efficiency

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