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Book reviews

Recommendations for the Supply of Energy and Nutrients to Goats

Committee for Requirement Standards of the Society of Nutrient Physiology of Germany, DLG-Verlags-GmbH, Frankfurt, Germany, ISBN 3-7690-0615-1, 121 p., € 19,90

Goats play an important role in human food supply in many regions. The contribution of goats to meat production is about 5.4% and their contribution to milk production 2.4% world wide.

The Committee for Requirement Standards of the Society of Nutrition Physiology presents for the first time defined recommendations for the supply of goats with energy and nutrients. These recommendations are based on scientific studies, considering different breeds, performances and environmental conditions. Energy requirements of goats are expressed as metabolizable energy. The protein value of feeds and protein requirements are expressed on the basis of utilizable crude protein at the duodenum. Minerals and vitamins are expressed as analysed.

Factorial approaches have been applied for deriving the requirements of metabolizable energy, utilizable crude protein at the duodenum and the major elements. Trace element and vitamin requirements are identified by dose response curves, because the experimental basis is insufficient for factorial approaches. Chapters referring to the impact of diet selection on rumen fermentation as well as on water requirements have been included.

The content of the brochure does not only include the allowances of the classical nutrients. Additionally, the variance of environmental conditions under which goats live is partly considered, although present knowledge on mechanisms of adaptation to extreme environments is not complete. The booklet does not only consider the present scientific knowledge for goat nutrition, but may also be a help for identifying fields for further research. So the brochure can be regarded as a valuable aid for students in animal and veterinary science, researchers, teachers and extension specialists, even if they work in tropical areas.

The brochure is available at the DLG-Verlag, Eschborner Landstraße 122, D-60489 Frankfurt am Main, Germany, e-mail: p.horn@dlg-frankfurt.de.

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