EFFECT OF GARLIC INCLUSION ON GROWTH AND FEED CONVERSION IN MERINO LAMBS

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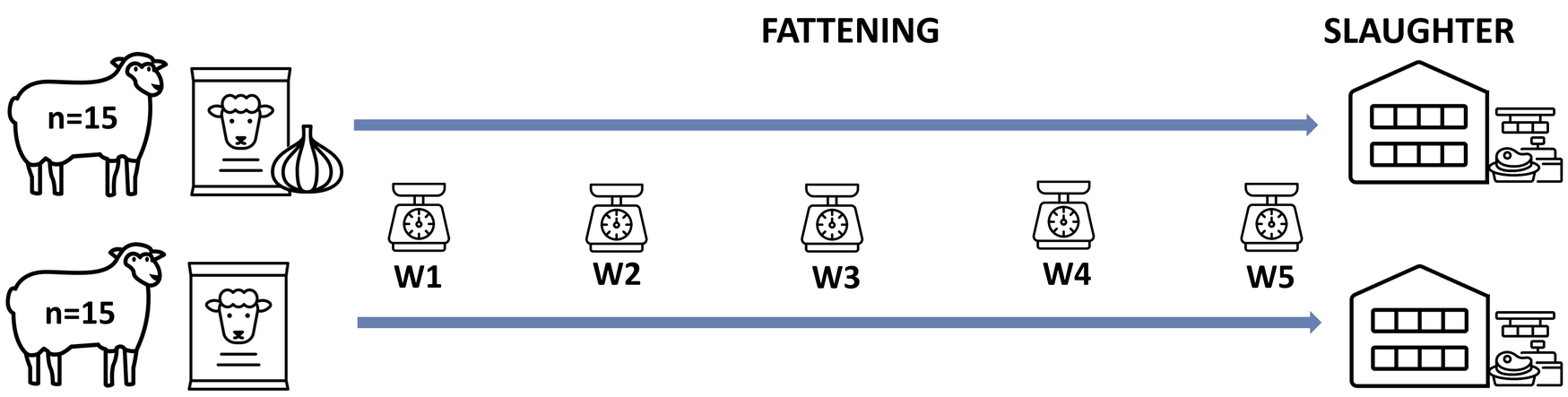
INTRODUCTION

The search for sustainable nutritional strategies in livestock production has promoted the use of agricultural by-products in animal feed. Garlic waste, derived from garlic cultivation, was used in this study due to its recognised antimicrobial, antioxidant and immunomodulatory properties, positioning it as a sustainable alternative for animal nutrition.

OBJECTIVE

The aim of this study was to evaluate the effect of including 4% garlic in the diet of Merino lambs on growth performance and feed efficiency.

MATERIAL & METHODS



Isoproteic and isoenergetic diets

Lambs weighed weekly

Feed intake recorded daily

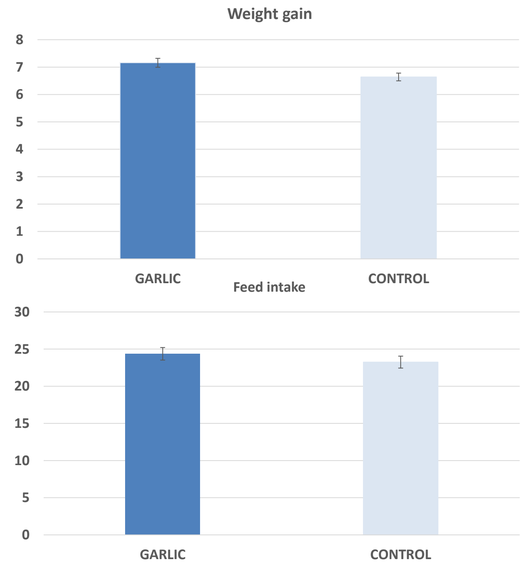
Weight gain
Average daily gain (ADG)
Feed intake
Feed conversion ratio (FCR)

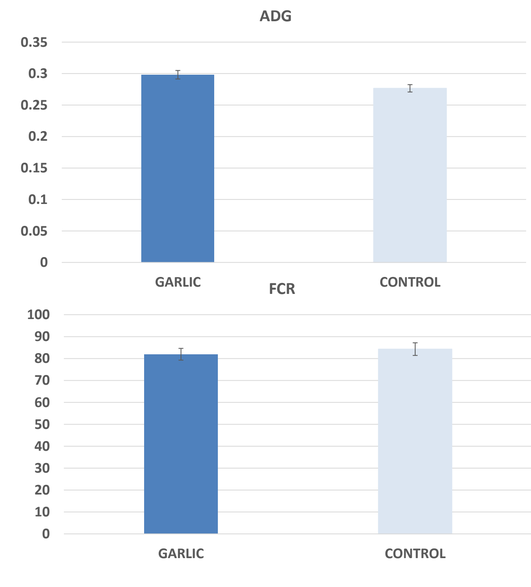
sas

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

Weight gain and **ADG** in garlic group (**p = 0.023**)

No significant difference in **feed intake** (p = 0.472) or **FCR** (p = 0.419)





Trend toward improved feed efficiency

Gut modulation by garlic → improved digestion and nutrient absorption

No feed rejection → good palatability and intake maintained

CONCLUSION

These results suggest that the inclusion of 4% garlic in the diet of Merino lambs can improve growth performance without negatively affecting feed efficiency. This study highlights the potential of garlic by-products as a natural and sustainable feed additive in sheep production, supporting more environmentally friendly livestock systems.

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