

Mixed Grazing of Cattle and Sheep

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[Abstract]

In most experiments involving mixed species stocking of pasture (cattle and sheep) the output per unit area has been conducted to examine the merits of mixed stocking of sheep and cattle on improved tropical pastures (*Brachiaria decumbens* in the first period and Star grass in the second period) under upland rain-fed conditions. Jamaica Red Poll animals and ram sheep were assigned to two groups to give a stocking density of 5 animals/ha, the first (T0) consisted of eight cattle and the second (T1) of six cattle and 16 sheep. The percentage herbage was 20% for T0 and 26.7% for T1. In the first grazing period (16.11.1987 to 2.2.1988) total LWG for cattle was 35.4 kg in T0 and 41.1 for T1 and 11.6 kg for sheep. In the second period (16.10.1990 to 22.10.1991) the corresponding figures were 95 kg, 99 kg and 22.7 kg, respectively. In each period, the LWG/ha was lower for the T0 group, being 174.7 kg and 475.2 in the second periods as compared with 259.1 and 598.3 in the corresponding period for the T1 group.