

The use of Fractions of Sugar cane for the Feeding of Pigs and Goats in Jamaica. II Residual Pressed Cane Stalks and Cane Tops as a Basal Diet for Goats

McDonald, D., Asiedu, F. and Jennings, P. (1995)

[Introduction]

Twenty-four (24) weaner goats (12 males and 12 females) of Nubian Alpine and Toggenburg parentage, with an average body weight of 23 kg (21.7-23.5 kg) were used, over a 16 weeks period, in a cross-over design to compare the potential of residual pressed cane stalk and cane tops (RPSC+Tops) for fattening with forage grass. The basal diets were fed ad libitum. In addition all the experimental animals received commercial concentrate at a rate of 2% of the body weight daily. Average daily gain (ADG) of goats, mean of both sexes, was 133g for the forage grass and 127g for RPCS + Tops (SED \pm 2.3). This difference was attributed to significantly higher intake of dry matter ($p < 0.01$), protein ($p < 0.01$) and metabolite energy ($p < 0.05$) for the forage grass than RPCS + Tops. In view of the small ADG difference (4.5%), it was concluded that for practical feeding considerations RPCS + Tops is equally good for fattening goats. It was calculated that RPCS + Tops from one hectare of sugar cane crop would provide enough to fatten 435 goats; a potential that cannot be easily ignored.