



Intake of sheep and goats grazing on cereal stubble in Northern Greece

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The Objective

was to study the intake of sheep and goats grazing in a mixed flock on cereal crop residues in northern Greece.

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Main results

- The stubble represented more than 50% of the botanical composition followed by herbaceous species while the woody ones, present at the edges of the field, were the smallest component.
- Sheep consumed higher amount of forbs than goats (524 vs 315 g day⁻¹) but they didn't consume woody species.
- Average bite frequency (bites min⁻¹) was greater for sheep than goats (35.8 vs 27.7) while the average bite weight of sheep (g DM bite⁻¹) was smaller than that of goats (0.22 vs 0.29).
- The higher bite frequency of sheep resulted in greater intake values compared to goats.
- By using the direct observation technique initial detailed information were obtained about the order of consumption of the feed items that have been identified in the stubble environment.