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**ABSTR**

**ACT:** *The effect of the nature of the source of energy supplementation on ruminal pH, concentration of volatile fatty acids (VFA) and the proportions of the main acids in the rumen of the dairy Sicilo-Sarde breed were evaluated. Four rams with an average live weight at the beginning of the experience of 45.25 ± 3.5 kg and aged 4.8 ± 0.5 years,*



fitted with permanent cannulas in the rumen were used in this experiment. The animals had a common basal diet at 1.5 kg DM / head / day of oat hay supplemented in turn by four concentrates at 500 g / head / d. Concentrates differed by the nature of energy ingredients they contain. The concentrate A: included 10% barley, 43.3% corn, 25% wheat bran, 17.7 % soybean meal and 4% CMV; The concentrate B was made of 66% white sorghum, 30% beans and 4% CMV; the concentrate C had 71% triticale, 18% horse bean, 7% soybean meal and 4% CMV; and finally the D concentrate included 71.5% barley, 17.5% field bean, 7% soybean meal, and 4% CMV. 50 ml samples were taken before, 2, 5 and 8 hours after the distribution of the morning meal, and were filtered

through four layers of surgical gaze. These samples were used for the analysis of volatile fatty acids (VFA) concentrations by gas chromatography. Results showed that the rumen pH was statistically different ( $P < 0.05$ ) before and 2 hours after the morning meal distribution among concentrates. It was in favour of C and D ( $P < 0.05$ ) concentrate s but it has stabilized at the end of the day ( $P > 0.05$ ). The concentration of total VFA was significantly higher ( $P < 0.05$ ) for diets C and D just after the distribution of the meal before it became comparable ( $P > 0.05$ ) among concentrates after 5 and 8 hours post prandial. The proportion of acetate and butyrate (C2 and C4) acids evolved in the same way during the day regardless of the regimen but were in a reversed manner for the propionic acid (C3).

**Keywo**

**rds:** Acetate,

butyrate,  
supplements,  
energy source,  
pH, propionate

Reproductive  
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of  
Rahmani  
and Chios  
sheep and  
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