The Effects of Replacement of Dried Orange Pulp with Ground Corn in Concentrate Feed on Dairy Goats’ Performance, Milk Somatic Cell Counts and Blood Parameters

Harun Kutay1,a,*, Hasan Rüştü Kutlu1,b

1Department of Animal Science, Faculty of Agriculture, Çukurova University, 01330 Adana, Türkiye
2Corresponding author

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A B S T R A C T

In this study orange pulp, dried in hot air, was replaced at control, 7.5, 15 and 22.5% levels (DM basis) with ground corn in the concentrate feeds of dairy goats. Considering the milk yield, average live weight and age of the animals, a total of 24 animals were used in 4 groups with 6 animals in each. Goats with 1375±330 ml milk yield, 2.45±0.17 years of age and 55.40±0.91 kg body weight were chosen for the trial. The animals were housed in individual compartments of 2x2 m during the study. In 2 weeks of adaptation, 8 weeks data collection of the trial, feed and water were provided ad libitum. Orange pulp utilisation increased dry matter intake, did not change milk yield and feed conversion rates, and negatively affected the body weight changes. Somatic cell counts were found to be lower in the control group in the middle of the study. Blood glucose and cholesterol levels were reduced, NEFA and BHB increased due to the treatments.

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Introduction

Feeding expenses cover 70% of the total costs in animal production. Increasing costs in the feedstuff production make animal nutrition harder day-by-day. Therefore, the search for alternative feed materials steams ahead. By-products and wastes from many areas of food industry and plant production are the most common factors in minimizing the ration costs. Citrus pulp is one of these alternatives in temperate regions. In Türkiye, citrus production is about 4 million tons (Erdem et al., 2019) and 195.500 tons were processed into juice (MEYED, 2019). After this process, citrus pulps occur as food industry wastes 50-60% amount of the fruits (Erdem et al., 2019). 195.500 tons of citrus fruits were processed Depending on source and breeding conditions, this material’s nutritional composition, as dried, is close to barley and corn, and has a very high potential for use in animal feeding (Bampidis and Robinson, 2006). Dried orange pulps contain approximately 92.67% dry matter; 1584 kcal/kg ME, 89% organic matter, 3.15% crude protein, 20.44% ether extract, 3.40% ADF, 35.52% NDF and 3.44% NPN matters (Filik and Kutlu, 2018). Both citrus pulp is an alternative in animal nutrition, and the aromatic substances in it also positively affect feed consumption (Ralphs et al., 1995; Hof, 2000; Sterk, 2008; Şahan and Kutay, 2019). Although, there are approximately 9000 taste buds on the human tongue, these values are 15000 in pigs and goats, 17000 in rabbits and around 25000 in calves (Hof, 2000). These figures can be considered as an indicator of how important the taste of the feed is on the feed consumption of mammals.

In livestock industry, citrus pulp is generally used as fresh in short periods or as ensiled by increasing dry matter in long periods. However, it is convenient to spoil because of the high sugar and water content. On the other hand, transportation of fresh pulps to animal farms is another handicap. Also, efflux of juice during transportation threatens environmental health and traffic safety and will be punished according to Turkish Penal Code Highway.
In the current study, the effects of replacing hot air-dried orange pulp with corn at different levels on performance and milk components in dairy goats were investigated.

Materials and Methods

Ethical Statement

This study was conducted by the approval of the Local Ethics Board for Animal Experiments of Çukurova University (CÜHADYEK, Research Code: CÜHADYEK-2022/2), Adana, Türkiye.

Animals, Trial Groups and Feeds

The study was carried out on Saanen dairy goats in Çukurova University Faculty of Agriculture Research and Application Farm. Considering the milk yield, average live weight and age of the animals, a total of 24 animals were used in 4 groups with 6 animals in each. Goats with 1375±330 ml milk yield, 2.45±0.17 years of age and 55.40±0.91 kg body weight were chosen for the trial. The animals were housed in individual compartments of 2x2 m during the study. In 2 weeks of adaptation, 8 weeks data collection of the trial, feed and water were provided ad libitum. Hot air-dried orange pulp was obtained from a private company in Adana, and feeds containing dried pulp were produced in a private company in Mersin. Alfalfa hay chopped 3-5 cm and corn silage used as roughage were obtained from Çukurova University Faculty of Agriculture. Concentrate feed and forage rate was 40:60 in dry matter basis. The feedstuff composition and nutrient contents of the feeds used in the study are given in Tables 1 and 2. The levels of replacement were determined by a literature survey for the energy supply of citrus pulps and the animals’ reaction to the taste of citrus pulp.

Performance Measurements

The feed consumptions of the animals were determined by subtracting the remaining feeds from the given twice a day, and the live weight changes were determined cumulatively by subtracting the live weights of the weeks from the trial beginning weights. Feed conversion rates were calculated weekly by dividing the cumulative dry matter consumptions with the cumulative milk yields. Milking was done in the early morning once a day and milk yields were determined twice a week. Milk somatic cell counts were done with DeLaval Somatic Cell Counter (DCC) on the days when milk yields were measured. Glucose, cholesterol, non-esterified fatty acids (NEFA) and β-Hydroxybutyric acid (BHB) were also measured by using ELISA Plate Reader (Epoch Microplate Spectrophotometer) from bloods taken from the vena jugularis of the animal at the 1st, 4th and 8th weeks of the trial (Şahan and Kutay, 2019).

Statistical Analysis

Data obtained from the trial was evaluated using the SAS package software (SAS, 2004). Variance analysis of the data was conducted according to Randomized Parcels Experiment Design on the General Linear Model (PROC GLM). Duncan test was used for the multiple comparisons of the averages (Bek & Efe, 1995).

Results and Discussion

Performance Findings

Dry matter consumption of animals during the experiment is given in Table 3. It was observed that the use of dried orange pulp instead of dried ground corn in the ration quadratically increased the weekly dry matter consumption of the animals in the group that received 15% pulp in the 1st week, and decreased it in the group that received 22.5% pulp. While no significant difference was observed in dry matter consumption in the 2nd week of the experiment; a linear increase was detected compared to the control group at 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th weeks, and a quadratic effect was observed between groups in the last week.

A general increase in dry matter consumption can be attributed to the aromatic properties of dried orange pulp in the ration. Because while poultry give more importance to visuality in feed selection; ruminants pay attention to the characteristics of the feeds such as taste and smell. The positive effect of feed taste on feed consumption has been previously stated by other researchers (Ralphs et al.1995; Hof, 2000; Sterk, 2008). The fact that the dry matter consumption in the group that received 22.5% orange pulp in the last week was higher than the control group but lower than the other treatment groups can be attributed to the fact that the aromatic components in the orange pulp may cause a feeling of boredom in the animals. Indeed, Oni et al. (2008) similarly found that an increase in orange pulp in the ration reduces feed consumption after a point. Kutlu and Çelik (2018) also stated that long-term and excessive consumption of barley, wheat, soybean and milling industry-by-products can cause boredom in animals.

The live weight changes of the animals on a weekly basis during the study are given in Table 4. It was determined that the treatments had a negative effect on the live weight changes of the animals in general, especially the difference between the first 2 weeks and the 4th and 5th weeks was statistically significant (P<0.05).

Although the dry matter consumption of the groups fed dried orange pulp were found to be higher, it is observed that milk yields and live weight changes decreased. However, with the increase in feed consumption, one or both of these parameters are expected to improve. Despite the treatments increased dry matter consumption, the negative effect on live weight change brings to mind that there was a problem in the metabolism of feeds. It has been stated that high amount of citrus pulp utilisation instead of corn in the diet reduces the production of propionic acid in the rumen (Ferrari et al., 2016) and increases the excretion of nitrogen in the feces (O’Connor et al., 2018). In this study, it is thought that the use of dried orange pulp reduced the production of propionic acid in the rumen and negatively affected the live weight change by reducing the rate of glucose transferred from the liver to the blood. At the same time, it comes to mind that it showed a similar effect by increasing the excretion of nitrogen with feces.

The effects of replacing dried orange pulp with different levels of ground corn on milk yield in dairy goats are given in Table 5. It was determined that the use of dried orange pulp at different levels instead of ground corn in the ration did not have any significant effect on the milk yield of the animals throughout the experiment (P>0.05).
Table 1. The composition and nutrient content of the concentrate feeds used in the experiment (Dry matter basis)

| Feedstuffs                | Control | 7.5% Pulp | 15% Pulp | 22.5 Pulp |
|---------------------------|---------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| Barley                    | 13.60   | 13.50     | 13.70    | 13.60     |
| Ground corn               | 40.80   | 27.00     | 13.70    | -         |
| Dried orange pulp         | -       | 13.50     | 27.40    | 40.90     |
| Sunflower meal, 27% CP    | 4.20    | 4.10      | 4.20     | 4.20      |
| Soybean meal, 44% CP      | 13.60   | 13.50     | 13.70    | 13.60     |
| Cotton seed meal          | 12.90   | 12.80     | 13.00    | 12.90     |
| Marble powder             | 1.50    | 1.40      | 1.50     | 1.50      |
| Salt                      | 0.70    | 0.70      | 0.70     | 0.70      |
| Vibrotal                  | 2.70    | 2.70      | 2.70     | 2.70      |
| Urea                      | 0.60    | 0.60      | 0.60     | 0.60      |
| Vitamin-mineral mixture*  | 0.10    | 0.10      | 0.10     | 0.10      |

Nutrient content (%)

|                   | Dry matter | ME (Kcal/kg) (MAFF, 1976) | Crude protein | Starch | Sugar | Ether extract | Ash | Crude fiber | ADF | NDF |
|-------------------|------------|----------------------------|---------------|--------|-------|---------------|-----|-------------|-----|-----|
| Dried orange pulp | 89.77      | 4.22                       | 5.77          | 1.13   | 12.13 | 16.89         | 18.06 |
| Alfalfa hay       | 93.15      | 10.34                      | 16.94         | 2.19   | 43.93 | 34.24         | 57.23 |
| Corn silage       | 27.03      | 5.92                       | 7.45          | 2.51   | 36.32 | 34.20         | 51.81 |

Table 2. Nutrient content of dried orange pulp, alfalfa hay and corn silage used in trial rations (%)

| Feed materials        | Dry matter | Ash | Crude protein | Ether extract | Crude fiber | ADF | NDF |
|-----------------------|------------|-----|---------------|---------------|-------------|-----|-----|
| Dried orange pulp     | 89.77      | 4.22| 5.77          | 1.13          | 12.13       | 16.89| 18.06|
| Alfalfa hay           | 93.15      | 10.34| 16.94         | 2.19          | 43.93       | 34.24| 57.23|
| Corn silage           | 27.03      | 5.92| 7.45          | 2.51          | 36.32       | 34.20| 51.81|

Table 3. Dry matter consumption of animals in the experiment

| Weekly dry matter consumption (g) | Ground corn-dried orange pulp replacement levels | SED | Effects (P) |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----|-------------|
|                                   | Control                                      | 7.5%| 15%         | 22.5%      | L   | Q   | C   |
| 1st Week                          | 1774.58<sup>a</sup> ab                    | 1776.23<sup>a</sup> ab     | 1825.73<sup>a</sup> ab     | 1706.93<sup>a</sup> ab     | 14.87| 0.262| 0.057| 0.120|
| 2nd Week                          | 1970.93                                    | 1968.45                          | 2004.75                          | 1982.48                          | 12.58| 0.535| 0.968| 0.397|
| 3rd Week                          | 1928.03<sup>b</sup>                     | 2006.40<sup>a</sup>    | 1997.33<sup>b</sup> ab     | 2020.43<sup>b</sup> ab     | 11.75| 0.019| 0.253| 0.269|
| 4th Week                          | 2179.65<sup>b</sup>                       | 2367.75                        | 2347.13                        | 2369.40                        | 23.72| 0.018| 0.969| 0.250|
| 5th Week                          | 2104.58<sup>b</sup>                       | 2323.28                       | 2351.25                       | 2360.33                       | 29.97| 0.008| 0.083| 0.467|
| 6th Week                          | 2134.28<sup>b</sup>                       | 2374.35                       | 2374.35                       | 2407.35                       | 26.85| 0.006| 0.098| 0.319|
| 7th Week                          | 2088.08<sup>b</sup> ab                     | 2245.65<sup>a</sup>        | 2281.13<sup>b</sup> ab     | 2376.00<sup>a</sup>        | 36.88| 0.013| 0.675| 0.588|
| 8th Week                          | 2217.60<sup>b</sup> ab                     | 2371.88<sup>a</sup>        | 2379.30                       | 2281.95<sup>b</sup> ab     | 26.08| 0.400| 0.026| 0.859|

a, b, c: Significant effect on group averages indicated by different letters (P<0.05). SED: Standard error of difference between group averages. L: linear effect, Q: Quadratic effect, C: Cubic effect; *: P<0.05, **: P<0.01

Table 4. Body weight changes of the animals in the experiment

| Weekly body weight changes (kg) | Ground corn-dried orange pulp replacement levels | SED | Effects (P) |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----|-------------|
| Initial body weight            | 56.72                                        | 54.68| 54.94     | 55.24   | 1.465| 0.754| 0.695| 0.865|
| Body weight change 1           | -1.12<sup>a</sup>                           | -3.08<sup>ab</sup>         | -5.90<sup>b</sup>         | -5.86<sup>b</sup>         | 0.462| 0.001| 0.562| 0.820|
| Body weight change 2           | -1.67<sup>a</sup>                           | -2.88<sup>ab</sup>         | -5.42<sup>b</sup>         | -4.58<sup>ab</sup>         | 0.516| 0.036| 0.594| 0.680|
| Body weight change 3           | 1.02<sup>a</sup>                            | 0.20<sup>a</sup>           | -1.11<sup>a</sup>         | -1.63<sup>a</sup>         | 0.610| 0.120| 0.780| 0.989|
| Body weight change 4           | 0.13<sup>a</sup>                            | -2.14<sup>ab</sup>         | -3.75<sup>b</sup>         | -3.08<sup>ab</sup>         | 0.563| 0.037| 0.205| 0.752|
| Body weight change 5           | 0.61<sup>a</sup>                            | -0.58<sup>ab</sup>         | -3.20<sup>b</sup>         | -2.91<sup>b</sup>         | 0.563| 0.017| 0.517| 0.400|
| Body weight change 6           | 2.04<sup>a</sup>                            | 0.49<sup>a</sup>           | -1.82<sup>a</sup>         | -0.48<sup>a</sup>         | 0.664| 0.113| 0.289| 0.467|
| Body weight change 7           | 2.42<sup>a</sup>                            | 1.27<sup>a</sup>           | -1.18<sup>a</sup>         | 0.40<sup>a</sup>           | 0.656| 0.163| 0.310| 0.374|

a, b, c: Significant effect on group averages indicated by different letters (P<0.05). SED: Standard error of difference between group averages. L: linear effect, Q: Quadratic effect, C: Cubic effect; *: P<0.05, **: P<0.01
## Table 5. Milk yield of the animals in the experiment

| Weekly milk yield (ml) | Ground corn-dried orange pulp replacement levels | SED | Effects (P) |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-----|-------------|
|                        | Control  | 7.5%  | 15%  | 22.5% | L      | Q    | C    |
| 1st Week               | 1175.00  | 1066.67 | 1258.33 | 1250.00 | 78.02  | 0.557 | 0.752 | 0.482 |
| 2nd Week               | 1337.50  | 1129.17 | 1445.83 | 1429.17 | 79.71  | 0.416 | 0.555 | 0.243 |
| 3rd Week               | 1454.17  | 1316.67 | 1525.00 | 1658.33 | 82.28  | 0.278 | 0.420 | 0.574 |
| 4th Week               | 1333.33  | 1225.00 | 1391.67 | 1650.00 | 82.95  | 0.148 | 0.282 | 0.807 |
| 5th Week               | 1487.50  | 1295.83 | 1341.67 | 1583.33 | 95.86  | 0.702 | 0.272 | 0.962 |
| 6th Week               | 1175.00  | 1208.33 | 1183.33 | 1416.67 | 88.18  | 0.385 | 0.577 | 0.692 |
| 7th Week               | 1116.67  | 1000.00 | 1000.00 | 1300.00 | 89.19  | 0.499 | 0.257 | 0.821 |
| 8th Week               | 1229.17  | 1083.33 | 1141.67 | 1270.83 | 103.29 | 0.845 | 0.513 | 0.887 |

a. b. c: Significant effect on group averages indicated by different letters (P<0.05). SED: Standard error of difference between group averages. L: linear effect, Q: Quadratic effect, C: Cubic effect, *: P<0.05, **: P<0.01

## Table 6. Feed conversion rates of the animals in the experiment

| Weekly feed conversion rates | Ground corn-dried orange pulp replacement levels | SED | Effects (P) |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-----|-------------|
|                            | Control  | 7.5%  | 15%  | 22.5% | L      | Q    | C    |
| 1st Week                   | 2.21     | 2.81  | 2.25  | 2.27  | 0.18   | 0.819 | 0.440 | 0.305 |
| 2nd Week                   | 2.25     | 2.84  | 2.14  | 2.21  | 0.18   | 0.609 | 0.462 | 0.205 |
| 3rd Week                   | 2.07     | 2.53  | 1.97  | 1.84  | 0.16   | 0.389 | 0.361 | 0.321 |
| 4th Week                   | 2.50     | 3.23  | 2.56  | 2.21  | 0.19   | 0.380 | 0.176 | 0.336 |
| 5th Week                   | 2.25     | 3.40  | 2.65  | 2.32  | 0.27   | 0.831 | 0.190 | 0.348 |
| 6th Week                   | 2.84     | 3.82  | 3.04  | 2.64  | 0.31   | 0.618 | 0.271 | 0.439 |
| 7th Week                   | 3.29     | 4.60  | 3.51  | 2.98  | 0.43   | 0.606 | 0.293 | 0.447 |
| 8th Week                   | 3.02     | 4.77  | 3.51  | 3.10  | 0.50   | 0.821 | 0.293 | 0.397 |

a. b. c: Significant effect on group averages indicated by different letters (P<0.05). SED: Standard error of difference between group averages. L: linear effect, Q: Quadratic effect, C: Cubic effect, *: P<0.05, **: P<0.01

## Table 7. Milk somatic cell counts of the animals in the experiment

| Milk somatic cell count (cell/ml) | Ground corn-dried orange pulp replacement levels | SED | Effects (P) |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-----|-------------|
|                                  | Control  | 7.5%  | 15%  | 22.5% | L      | Q    | C    |
| 1st Week                         | 130.50   | 176.17 | 83.92 | 147.42 | 18.40  | 0.804 | 0.811 | 0.090 |
| 2nd Week                         | 124.92   | 168.67 | 103.67| 154.08 | 13.76  | 0.857 | 0.905 | 0.084 |
| 3rd Week                         | 96.58b   | 149.50a| 108.67ab| 108.08b| 11.50  | 0.055*| 0.692 | 0.059 |
| 4th Week                         | 86.33b   | 145.92ab| 107.67ab| 170.25a| 10.11  | 0.029*| 0.942 | 0.040*|
| 5th Week                         | 72.42b   | 115.75ab| 100.00ab| 141.58a| 8.30   | 0.018*| 0.959 | 0.132 |
| 6th Week                         | 76.25b   | 107.92ab| 89.67ab| 116.42a| 5.20   | 0.040*| 0.815 | 0.055*|
| 7th Week                         | 83.50    | 117.08 | 94.67 | 120.83 | 5.89   | 0.105 | 0.756 | 0.061 |
| 8th Week                         | 83.92    | 115.42 | 100.50| 113.58 | 6.37   | 0.208 | 0.478 | 0.206 |

a. b. c: Significant effect on group averages indicated by different letters (P<0.05). SED: Standard error of difference between group averages. L: linear effect, Q: Quadratic effect, C: Cubic effect, *: P<0.05, **: P<0.01

## Table 8. Blood glucose levels of the animals in the experiment

| Blood glucose (mg/dl) | Ground corn-dried orange pulp replacement levels | SED | Effects (P) |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-----|-------------|
|                       | Control  | 7.5%  | 15%  | 22.5% | L      | Q    | C    |
| 1st week              | 64.78    | 67.73  | 64.17 | 65.72  | 0.88   | 0.923 | 0.695 | 0.154 |
| 4th week              | 65.35a   | 62.05ab| 56.82c| 58.80bc| 0.62   | 0.000**| 0.045*| 0.114 |
| 8th week              | 69.10a   | 63.68b| 58.13c| 60.78bc| 0.66   | 0.000**| 0.006**| 0.1708|

a. b. c: Significant effect on group averages indicated by different letters (P<0.05). SED: Standard error of difference between group averages. L: linear effect, Q: Quadratic effect, C: Cubic effect, *: P<0.05, **: P<0.01

## Table 9. Blood cholesterol levels of the animals in the experiment

| Blood cholesterol (mg/dl) | Ground corn-dried orange pulp replacement levels | SED | Effects (P) |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-----|-------------|
|                          | Control  | 7.5%  | 15%  | 22.5% | L      | Q    | C    |
| 1st week                 | 121.98   | 123.43 | 122.75| 127.52 | 1.98   | 0.378 | 0.679 | 0.672 |
| 4th week                 | 129.97a  | 125.25a| 116.98b| 117.85b| 1.02   | <.0001**| 0.185 | 0.178 |
| 8th week                 | 193.43a  | 161.83b| 144.92c| 132.48c| 2.75   | <.0001**| 0.097 | 0.683 |

a. b. c: Significant effect on group averages indicated by different letters (P<0.05). SED: Standard error of difference between group averages. L: linear effect, Q: Quadratic effect, C: Cubic effect, *: P<0.05, **: P<0.01
It has also been reported by previous researchers that the use of citrus pulp in the diets of dairy animals does not significantly affect milk yield (Belibasakis and Tsirgogianni, 1996; Volanis et al., 2004). On the other hand, Peixoto et al. (2015) reported that the use of citrus pulp did not affect volatile fatty acids production or other rumen dynamics. In this case, it is thought that volatile fatty acids, which play an active role in shaping milk yield, are not sufficiently released in the rumen and sufficient resources cannot be sent to the liver to raise blood glucose levels. The low level of volatile fatty acid production in the rumen may cause by the orange pulp's increasing the ruminal flow rate (Fonseca et al., 2001), the suppressing of the rumen microorganisms by enteric oils in the pulp (Barrios-Urdanetat et al., 2003; Nam et al., 2006) or the rapid digestion of sugar and causing a sudden drop in pH and disrupting rumen dynamics.

The feed conversion ratios obtained from the study are given in Table 6. It was detected that the difference between the groups in all weeks in terms of feed conversion rates was statistically insignificant (P>0.05).

Although the feed consumption was high in the groups fed dried orange pulp, the lack of difference between milk yields caused the feed conversion rate to get worse. Even though orange pulp has similar amounts of energy (about 2980 kcal/kg DM) with cereals (Bampidis and Robinson, 2006), there are studies reporting that performance yields caused the feed conversion rate to get worse. Even though orange pulp has similar amounts of energy (about 2980 kcal/kg DM) with cereals (Bampidis and Robinson, 2006), there are studies reporting that performance yields caused the feed conversion rate to get worse. Even though orange pulp has similar amounts of energy (about 2980 kcal/kg DM) with cereals (Bampidis and Robinson, 2006), there are studies reporting that performance yields caused the feed conversion rate to get worse. Even though orange pulp has similar amounts of energy (about 2980 kcal/kg DM) with cereals (Bampidis and Robinson, 2006), there are studies reporting that performance yields caused the feed conversion rate to get worse. Even though orange pulp has similar amounts of energy (about 2980 kcal/kg DM) with cereals (Bampidis and Robinson, 2006), there are studies reporting that performance yields caused the feed conversion rate to get worse. Even though orange pulp has similar amounts of energy (about 2980 kcal/kg DM) with cereals (Bampidis and Robinson, 2006), there are studies reporting that performance yields caused the feed conversion rate to get worse. Even though orange pulp has similar amounts of energy (about 2980 kcal/kg DM) with cereals (Bampidis and Robinson, 2006), there are studies reporting that performance yields caused the feed conversion rate to get worse. Even though orange pulp has similar amounts of energy (about 2980 kcal/kg DM) with cereals (Bampidis and Robinson, 2006), there are studies reporting that performance yields caused the feed conversion rate to get worse. Even though orange pulp has similar amounts of energy (about 2980 kcal/kg DM) with cereals (Bampidis and Robinson, 2006), there are studies reporting that performance yields caused the feed conversion rate to get worse. Even though orange pulp has similar amounts of energy (about 2980 kcal/kg DM) with cereals (Bampidis and Robinson, 2006), there are studies reporting that performance yields caused the feed conversion rate to get worse. Even though orange pulp has similar amounts of energy (about 2980 kcal/kg DM) with cereals (Bampidis and Robinson, 2006), there are studies reporting that performance yields caused the feed conversion rate to get worse. Even though orange pulp has similar amounts of energy (about 2980 kcal/kg DM) with cereals (Bampidis and Robinson, 2006), there are studies reporting that performance yields caused the feed conversion rate to get worse. Even though orange pulp has similar amounts of energy (about 2980 kcal/kg DM) with cereals (Bampidis and Robinson, 2006), there are studies reporting that performance yields caused the feed conversion rate to get worse. Even though orange pulp has similar amounts of energy (about 2980 kcal/kg DM) with cereals (Bampidis and Robinson, 2006), there are studies reporting that performance yields caused the feed conversion rate to get worse. Even though orange pulp has similar amounts of energy (about 2980 kcal/kg DM) with cereals (Bampidis and Robinson, 2006), there are studies reporting that performance yields caused the feed conversion rate to get worse. Even though orange pulp has similar amounts of energy (about 2980 kcal/kg DM) with cereals (Bampidis and Robinson, 2006), there are studies reporting that performance yields caused the feed conversion rate to get worse.

One of the quality indicators in milk is the number of somatic cells. The main cause of somatic cell count in milk is mastitis. The number of somatic cells due to this infection and the nutritional components of milk are inversely related. While the presence of mastitis reduces the milk composition, it also damages the milk secretion cells, causing deterioration of udder health, and subsequently a decrease in productivity or atrophy of the udder. Somatic cells obtained in the present study are given in Table 7. During the study, the differences between the groups in terms of somatic cell counts in the first and last two weeks were insignificant (P>0.05), while it was significant (P<0.05) in the middle of the experiment.

Due to the presence of apocrine secretion system in the mammary glands of goats, it is normal to have a high somatic cell count. Differences between the groups may be affected by the treatments as well as by other management factors. The quality of the litter got worse because of the rain and insufficient roof materials of the experimental area. It was stated that fresh lemon pulp utilisation did not affect the somatic cell count in ewes (Todaro et al., 2017), but stress factors and some vitamins may change the somatic cell count in milk. (Pulina et al., 2006).

The effects of replacement of dried orange pulp with ground corn in concentrate feeds on glucose, cholesterol, NEFA and BHB levels of blood taken from animals in the first, middle and last weeks of the current study are as follows. Throughout the study, it was observed that the blood glucose levels of the treatment groups were significantly (P<0.05) lower than the control group, and the treatments had a linear and quadratic effect in the week’s bloods were taken (Table 8).

Although the dry matter consumption of the animals in the experiment was higher (P<0.05) than the control group, their milk yields were similar. On the other hand, live weight loss was observed in groups fed dried orange pulp. The main sources of blood glucose in ruminants are the volatile fatty acids released as a result of the fermentation of microorganisms in the rumen. In particular, easily fermentable sources such as starch and sugar in the diet are rapidly digestible in the rumen, increases the blood glucose level. Blood glucose is evaluated for live weight gain and milk production in dairy animals. Although the animals in the treatment groups consumed more dry matter, the milk yields were similar to the control group and the live weights have decreased. This reminds us that enough volatile fatty acids are not produced in the rumen. Production of volatile fatty acids varies depending on the composition of the diet, rumen dynamics, the number and variety of microorganisms in the rumen, and the time spent by the feed in the rumen. There are researchers who reported that citrus pulp increases the ruminal flow rate (Fonseca et al., 2001; Volanis et al., 2004). Therefore, it is

| Blood NEFA (mg/dl) | Ground corn-dried orange pulp replacement levels | SED | Effects (P) |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------------|-----|-------------|
|                   | Control 7.5% 15% 22.5%                      |     |             |
| 1st week          | 0.65 0.66 0.69 0.68 0.02 0.498 0.746 0.797 |
| 4th week          | 0.69b 0.75ab 0.83a 0.86a 0.09 0.024 0.740 0.746 |
| 8th week          | 0.62b 0.64ab 0.74a 0.72ab 0.02 0.018 0.514 0.177 |

a. b. c. Significant effect on group averages indicated by different letters (P<0.05). SED: Standard error of difference between group averages. L: linear effect, Q: Quadratic effect, C: Cubic effect, *: P<0.05, **: P<0.01

| BHB (mg/dl) | Ground corn-dried orange pulp replacement levels | SED | Effects (P) |
|------------|---------------------------------------------|-----|-------------|
|            | Control 7.5% 15% 22.5%                      |     |             |
| 1st week   | 0.35 0.38 0.38 0.38 0.01 0.516 0.613 0.865 |
| 4th week   | 0.37b 0.44b 0.50ab 0.61a 0.02 0.002 0.699 0.753 |
| 8th week   | 0.36b 0.45ab 0.57a 0.52a 0.02 0.004 0.070 0.293 |

a. b. c. Significant effect on group averages indicated by different letters (P<0.05). SED: Standard error of difference between group averages. L: linear effect, Q: Quadratic effect, C: Cubic effect, *: P<0.05, **: P<0.01
thought that in the treatment groups, the feeds left the rumen quickly, and as a result, the blood glucose level decreased due to the inability to produce enough volatile fatty acids in the rumen. On the other hand, Nam et al. (2006) mentions the antimicrobial effect of enteric oils in citrus peels. These oils may have suppressed rumen microorganisms, reduced the production of volatile fatty acids, and caused a decrease in blood glucose levels.

The effect of using dried orange pulp in different levels instead of ground corn in the diets of dairy goats on blood cholesterol level is given in Table 9. It is seen that the replacement of corn with dried orange pulp at different levels significantly (P<0.05) reduced blood cholesterol levels.

The acetate released in the rumen by the degradation of the fibers and the pectin found in the orange pulp may have provided this effect. Pectin’s degradation lasts later than other structural carbohydrates in the rumen. At the same time, it is known that citrus pulp increases the rumen flow rate and reduces the residence time of the feeds in the rumen. For these reasons, acetate formation may have been interrupted and blood cholesterol levels may have decreased in groups fed orange pulp. Consistent with the present findings, some researchers also stated that dried citrus pulp reduces cholesterol levels in dairy animals (Belibasakis and Tsirgogianni, 1996; Caparra et al., 2007). Also, Brouns et al. (2012) reported that pectin, which is a viscous fibre, can reduce the amount of cholesterol due to its physico-chemical properties such as its consistency, molecular weight, or esterification degree.

NEFA generally refer to free fatty acids in the blood. NEFA levels of blood taken from experimental animals at the 1st, 4th and 8th weeks of the current study period are presented in Table 10. In the 4th and 8th weeks, it was determined that the effect of the treatment on blood NEFA levels were significant (P<0.05).

In general, dry matter consumption was higher in the treatment groups, milk yields were similar to the control group, but the body weight changes were shaped against the treatment groups. At this point, it is understood that the animals cannot replace the energy they lost with the consumed feed, so they enter the negative energy balance of ground corn increased the level of BHB in the blood. It is seen from the table, the use of dried orange pulp instead of ground corn in the diets of dairy goats on blood levels lower or to use it with different energy sources that do not break down the rumen dynamics.

**Conclusion**

In conclusion, it has been determined that dried pulp will encourage feed consumption due to its aromatic components. However, it has been observed that it negatively affects rumen dynamics because of increasing rumen flow rate and suppressing rumen microorganisms with its enteric oils. For this reason, it has been detected that it does not provide energy to animals as much as ground corn. In order for it to be considered as a cheap alternative in the diet, it may be recommended to keep its level lower or to use it with different energy sources that do not break down the rumen dynamics.

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**Conflict of Interest**

The author declared no conflict of interests.

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