

**Experiment Seven (2011)**

**Efficacy of pumpkin seed oil in reducing fecal egg counts in Katahdin lambs**

*Procedure:*

Ten month old Katahdin lambs were placed in individual pens (4 ft x 4 ft) on solid concrete floors into one of three treatment groups. All lambs received a commercially pelleted 16% crude protein starter lamb feed from Southern States. In this experiment, seven lambs were drenched with water (untreated), nine lambs received pumpkin seed oil at a rate of 0.9 ml/lb of body weight (6 ounces pumpkin seed/75 lbs body weight) once weekly, or ten lambs received pumpkin seed oil at a rate of 0.9 ml/lb of body weight (6 ounces pumpkin seed/75 lbs body weight) three times weekly. The pumpkin seed oil (Swanson Organic Pumpkin Seed Oil) was purchased at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com). Lamb body weights were measured weekly for 28 days. Fecal and blood samples were also collected at weighing to determine individual fecal egg counts and packed cell volume (PCV). The packed cell volume determines the anemia level in the animal as a possible indicator of barber pole worm infection. If an individual animals’ PCV was < 15%, animals were dewormed with moxidectin (0.2 mg/kg) and removed from the study.

*Results:*

During the 28-day period, no lambs were dewormed and removed from the study. Average body weight increased steadily over the study period in all groups (Figure 1). Figure 2 represents the average PCV of each group over the 28 day period. Average fecal egg counts kept decreasing in all groups over the study period regardless of treatment.

Figure 1. Average body weights of Katahdin lambs receiving pumpkin seed oil once weekly (PUM1), three times weekly (PUM2) or left untreated (CON) over a 28 day period.

Figure 2. Average packed cell volume (PCV) of Katahdin lambs receiving pumpkin seed oil once weekly (PUM1), three times weekly (PUM2) or left untreated (CON) over a 28 day period.

Figure 3. Average fecal egg counts of Katahdin lambs receiving pumpkin seed oil once weekly (PUM1), three times weekly (PUM2) or left untreated (CON) over a 28 day period.

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