Table 1: Growth characteristics of lambs in replicates 1 and 21

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Replicate 1 | Replicate 2 | Mean | P-Value |
| N | 64 | 93 | - |  |
| Birth weight, kg | 4.3 ± 0.1 | 3.7 ± 0.1 | 3.9 ± 0.07 | 0.0001 |
| Age at start, days | 69.9 ± 1.4 | 82.4 ± 1.2 | 77.3 ± 6.2 | 0.0001 |
| Initial weight, kg | 17.2 ± 0.6 | 20.4 ± 0.5 | 19.1 ± 0.4 | 0.0001 |
| Pre-average daily gain, g/day | 184.2 ± 5.5 | 202 ± 4.6 | 194.7 ± 3.5 | 0.0141 |
| End weight, kg | 29.7 ± 0.7 | 32.9 ± 0.6 | 31.4 ± 0.5 | 0.0011 |
| Overall weight gain, kg | 12.5 ± 0.4 | 12.3 ± 0.4 | 12.2 ± 0.3 | NS |
| Overall average daily gain, g/day | 142.3 ± 4.9 | 138.6 ± 4.2 | 138.4 ± 3.2 | NS |

1 Lambs in replicates 1 and 2 were born in Fall (August-September) and Spring (March-April).

Table 2: Effect of type of rearing and grain supplementation on growth characteristics of lambs1

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Type of Rearing | | Ration | | P-value | |
|  | Suckling | Weaned | Supplement | No-Supplement | Suckling Status | Supplement |
| Age at start, days | 75.8 ± 1.3 | 76.6 ± 1.3 | 77.5 ± 1.4 | 74.8 ± 1.3 | NS | NS |
| Initial weight, kg | 18.8 ± 0.5 | 18.8 ± 0.5 | 18.8 ± 0.6 | 18.8 ± 0.5 | NS | NS |
| End weight, kg | 32.3 ± 0.7 | 30.3 ± 0.7 | 35.7 ± 0.7 | 26.8 ± 0.7 | 0.04 | < 0.0001 |
| Overall weight gain, kg | 13.4 ± 0.4 | 11.5 ± 0.4 | 17 ± 0.4 | 7.8 ± 0.4 | < 0.0001 | < 0.0001 |
| Overall average daily  gain, g/day | 151.3 ± 4.5 | 129.6 ± 4.6 | 192.5 ± 4.7 | 88.4 ± 4.4 | < 0.0001 | < 0.0001 |

1 Data pooled from replicates 1 and 2.