

Table 1. Composition of forage-based pelleted diet.

Item	
Ingredient, % DM	
Alfalfa pellets	67.70
Wheat middlings	27.50
Cane molasses	2.50
Salt	1.34
Calcium carbonate	0.60
Trace minerals and vitamins ¹	0.34
Analyzed nutrient composition ²	
Moisture, % as fed	7.26
DM, % as fed	92.74
CP, % DM	17.84
N, % DM	2.85
NDF, % DM	43.25
ADF, % DM	29.70
ME, Mcal/kg ³	2.31
Ca, % DM	1.66
P, % DM	0.44
K, % DM	2.16
Mg, % DM	0.30
Na, % DM	0.55
S, % DM	0.27
Al, ppm DM	167.00
B, ppm DM	34.00
Cu, ppm DM	14.33
Fe, ppm DM	151.50
Mn, ppm DM	174.17
Zn, ppm DM	174.00

Table 2. Least-squares means of performance traits in twin lambs inoculated with rumen fluid from donor ewes divergent for feed efficiency.

Item	Expected Efficiency Status			
	H ¹	L ²	SEM	P-Value
RFI ³ , kg/d	0.0	0.0	0.06	0.576
ADG ⁴ , kg/d	0.3	0.3	0.02	0.196
ADFI ⁵ , kg/d	3.0	3.1	0.10	0.342
G:F ⁶ , kg/kg	0.1	0.1	0.00	0.351
MMWT ⁷ , kg	19.5	19.7	0.52	0.741
D 0 BW ⁸ , kg	45.0	43.3	1.9	0.545
D 35 BW, kg	52.5	53.4	1.9	0.741
D 70 BW, kg	64.0	64.1	2.05	0.963

¹H = lambs inoculated with high RFI donors.

²L = lambs inoculated with low RFI donors.

³RFI = residual feed intake.

⁴ADG = average daily gain.

⁵ADFI = average daily feed intake.

⁶G:F = gain to feed ratio (ADG/ADFI).

⁷MMWT = metabolic mid-weight $((D\ 0\ BW + D\ 70\ BW)/2)^{0.75}$

⁸BW = body weight.