

## SYNCHRONIZATION OF OVULATION IN SUFFOLK EWES

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*The ovine production have become a great option in recent years for small farmers in Parana state, Brazil. Control of estrous cycle has been an interesting way to increase the reproductive efficiency in the ewes, allowing quick genetic improvement. The most important advantages are planning the lambs births, three parities in two years, to reduce breeding season, and optimization of the male requirement. Another important tool for improve reproduction efficiency is the superovulation using ECG (Equine Chorionic Gonadotropin), aiming to increase the percentage of twin lambs. The aim of this study was to achieve a preliminary evaluation of a protocol of estrous cycle controll associated with ECG. Seventeen Suffolk ewes, from 2 to 4 years of age, were used. The animals had field access and were fed a commercial mixed ration. The ewes were separated from the males two months before the beginning of the experiment. All animals had a body score from 3,5 to 4,5 in 1 to 5 scale. For the estrous cycle control, the ewes received on Day 0 (day of the beginning of the treatment) an intravaginal implant with 60mg of medroxiprogesterone acetate (MAP) and 0,25ml of oxitetracilin, plus 0,5ml im injection prostaglandin F2 $\alpha$ . On Day 7, was applied 400 UI im of ECG. On D9 the intravaginal implants were removed and from day 11 to day 13 the ewes were kept together the rams that had collarfull paint on their ventral toracic region, aiming the identification of the bred ewes. We used 10 ewes for each ram. The pregnancy diagnosis was made by ultrasonography after 70 days. The lamb number was evaluated at the birth. Fifteen ewes (90%) had signs of paint on their dorso lombar region, showing the couplin. From the bred ewes seven (46%) became pregnant. Considering all the ewes submitted to the protocol, we obtained 41.1% of pregnancy rate. None twin pregnant were obtained. Considering that as a preliminary work, we concluded that the estrus synchronization can contribute to increase the ovine production in our region, as the rate obtained were closed to the ones found on the literature for ewes submitted to similar protocols. Probably, the reduced amount of ECG used is the reason for none twin pregnant obtained. This work was essentially designed as a first evaluation of estrous cycle control, and mores studies have been conducted under our conditions, aiming to improve the results.*

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