The use of Poultry Litter as an Inclusion in Rations Fed to Sheep


[Abstract]
There is a growing need in Jamaica for a reduced level of dependence on livestock feeds which are based on a high content of imported ingredients. This is particularly so among feeds for ruminants.

Much of the litter from the poultry industry is being used as organic fertilizer for sugar cane and other crops. There has also been an increase in the use of poultry litter as an inclusion in ruminant rations. Several experiments have shown that dried poultry litter can be used successfully in ruminant rations (among other Lallo et al., 1988) in addition, researchers have shown that animal excreta along with the associated material, such as bedding, is more valuable as a feed nutrient than as a fertilizer (Arndt et al. 1979). In terms of economic value, the use of animal excreta as an ingredient in ruminant diets is three to ten times greater than as a fertilizer (Smith and Wheeler, 1979).

The trial in this report was done to evaluate the nutritive value of poultry litter as a supplement in the diet of fattening lambs.