

Document downloaded from:

<http://hdl.handle.net/10251/183613>

This paper must be cited as:

Fernández Martínez, C.J.; Romero Rueda, T.; Martí Vicent, J.V.; Moya, V.; Hernando, I.; Llor, J.J. (2021). Energy, nitrogen partitioning, and methane emissions in dairy goats differ when an isoenergetic and isoproteic diet contained orange leaves and rice straw crop residues. *Journal of Dairy Science*. 104(7):7830-7844. <https://doi.org/10.3168/jds.2020-19953>



The final publication is available at

<https://doi.org/10.3168/jds.2020-19953>

Copyright American Dairy Science Association

Additional Information

1 **RUNNINGHEAD: ORANGE LEAVES IN DAIRY GOATS DIETS**

2

3 **Energy, nitrogen partitioning and methane emissions in dairy goats**
4 **differ when an isoenergetic and isoproteic diet contained orange leaves**
5 **and rice straw crop residues**

6

7 **C. Fernández^{1,*}, T. Romero¹, J. V. Martí¹, V. J. Moya¹, I. Hernando², and J. J.**
8 **Loor³**

9 ¹Instituto de Ciencia y Tecnología Animal, Universitat Politècnica de València, 46022
10 Valencia, Spain

11 ²Facultad de Magisterio y Ciencias de la Educación. Universidad Católica de Valencia,
12 Spain

13 ³Department of Animal Sciences, Division of Nutritional Sciences, University of Illinois,
14 Urbana 61801, USA

15

16

17

18

19

20 *Corresponding author: cjfernandez@dca.upv.es

ABSTRACT

21

22 The aim of this study was to evaluate the effects of incorporating rice straw and orange
23 leaves into the diets for goats. Ten Murciano-Granadina goats at mid-lactation weighting
24 45 ± 0.3 kg BW were used in a cross-over design. Two isoproteic and isoenergetic diets
25 (180 g/kg DM and 17 MJ/kg DM, respectively) with alfalfa hay as forage source (33% of
26 DM) were fed. A control diet (CON) incorporated barley as energy source and soy hulls as
27 fiber component. The experimental diet (ORG) replaced barley and soy hulls with orange
28 leaves (19% on DM basis), rice straw (12%, on DM basis) and soya oil (2%). Peas and
29 horsebeans were the protein source in both diets. Each goat received the 2 treatments in 2
30 periods. Goats were fed the experimental diets and after 14 days on their respective
31 treatments moved to individual metabolism cages for another 7 days. Subsequently, feed
32 intake, total fecal and urine output and milk yield were recorded daily over the first 5 days.
33 During the last 2 days, ruminal fluid and blood samples were collected along with
34 individual gas exchange measurements recorded by a mobile open-circuit indirect
35 calorimetry system using a head box. No differences in dry matter intake were detected,
36 and apparent total tract digestibility was greater in CON than ORG. Efficiency of
37 metabolizable energy intake for milk and maintenance also was lower in response to ORG
38 (0.65 vs. 0.63), with energy balance being negative (-12 kJ/kg of BW^{0.75}) due to
39 mobilization of fat (-16 g/animal vs. 68 g/animal for ORG and CON, respectively).
40 Although actual milk yield was lower in goats fed ORG (2.32 vs. 2.06 kg/d, respectively),
41 energy-corrected milk did not differ (2.81 kg/d on average). In terms of milk quality, milk
42 fat content and concentrations of monounsaturated (18.54 vs. 11.55 g/100 g milk fat) and
43 polyunsaturated fatty acids (5.75 vs. 3.99 g/100 g milk fat) were greater in goats fed ORG.
44 Based on various indices, the milk produced by ORG would be less atherogenic and
45 thrombogenic than CON milk. Compared with CON, enteric CH₄ emission was lower due

46 to feeding ORG (reduction of 38 g CH₄/kg milk fat). Data suggest that greater fat
47 mobilization in goats fed ORG might have been due to the apparent lack of synchrony
48 between degradable protein and carbohydrate and the lipogenic nutrients associated with
49 the lower cereal content of the ORG diet. Thus, goats fed ORG seemed to rely more on fat
50 depots to help meet energy requirements and reach optimal performance. As such, the
51 lower content of glucogenic nutrients in ORG did not favor body fat deposition and
52 partitioning of ME into body tissue. Overall, responses in terms of CH₄ emissions and milk
53 quality suggest that inclusion of rice straw and orange leaves in diets for small ruminants
54 could be a valuable alternative to reuse, recycle and revalue agricultural by-products.

55 **Key words:** orange leaves, rice straw, dairy goat, methane emission

INTRODUCTION

56

57 Total European agricultural area dedicated to crops spans 173 million ha. Spain, with
58 an area for agricultural purposes of 23 million ha, was the second country (EUROSTAT,
59 2020). In Mediterranean regions, rice and orange production areas are mainly located in
60 Spain, Italy and Greece. According to the latest FAO data, the EU produced approximately
61 3.7 million tons of rice and 11.1 million tons of citrus fruit in 2018 (FAOSTAT, 2020).
62 Waste management represents a key element in strategies for reducing air and water
63 pollution, greenhouse, gas emissions, and health problems. One of the priority objectives,
64 regarding waste policy and managing, outlined in the 7th Environment Action Programme
65 of the European Union to 2020 was to maximize recycling and re-use (EAP, 2020).

66 As a result, large amounts of by-product waste were generated. In the case of rice
67 cultivation, straw is generated during harvest, which makes this by-product one of the
68 most-abundant and available in large quantities (10 tons/ha cultivated) around the world
69 (Matias et al., 2019). In the case of citrus, an annual pruning is necessary for physiological
70 control that guarantees optimal production by the plant (Guardiola et al., 2008), and out of
71 3.92 tons/ha cultivated (dry matter basis) this process generates approximately 50% leaf
72 and 50% wood by-product (EFEAGRO, 2016). Traditionally, the most-common way for
73 rapid and inexpensive disposal of rice straw and citrus waste has been burning in the field
74 (Kumar et al., 2015; Segarra et al., 2019). Clearly, this practice entails an environmental
75 cost as it constitutes a significant source of greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere
76 and removes valuable material that can be used in many ways (Segarra et al., 2019). In the
77 case of rice straw, an alternate approach for disposal is through soil incorporation strategies
78 (Ribó et al., 2017). However, the incorporation of stubble and straw to wet soil is associated
79 with an increase in methane emissions (Dominguez-Escribá and Porcar, 2010). In this

80 scenario, the use of agro-industrial by-products as feed ingredients could represent an
81 important component of the global strategy to reduce this environmental impact.

82 The use of cereal straw as feeds for ruminants is characterized by low protein content,
83 high degree of lignification and low digestibility. Rice straw is unique relative to other
84 cereals straws in being low in lignin and high in silica (Van Soest, 2006). Silica and lignin
85 in that order are the primary limiting factors in rice straw quality.

86 Besides of the use of a traditional poor-quality by-product as rice straw in ruminant
87 nutrition, the use of citrus leaves provides a source of fiber for ruminal fermentation and is
88 an important source of bioactive compounds including antioxidants such as ascorbic acid,
89 flavonoids and phenolic compounds (Bampidis and Robinson, 2006; Khettal et al., 2017).
90 These compounds, included at low or moderate levels in the diet, have a positive effect on
91 productive performance and health (Patra et al., 2017; Correddu et al., 2020). Furthermore,
92 essential oils and bioactive compounds present in citrus leaves could be beneficial to reduce
93 CH₄ emissions from fermentation (Patra and Yu, 2012; Knapp et al., 2014; Correddu et al.,
94 2020).

95 The demand for efficient use of food by-products is increasing due to economic and
96 environmental concerns. Thus, an alternative feedstuff such as the use of these in ruminant
97 diets could be implemented as a way to recycle and reuse these wastes or residues in
98 support of production of human-edible foods such as milk or meat (Cao et al., 2009). In
99 2017, the global dairy goat population was estimated at 218 million, with production being
100 more common in Mediterranean Countries such as France, Spain, Italy and Greece (Miller
101 and Lu, 2019).

102 The main objective of the present study was to include orange leaves and rice straw
103 in replacement of barley grain into the concentrate feed for dairy goats, and study the

104 impact on intake, apparent total tract digestibility, energy, carbon (C) and nitrogen (N)
105 balance, milk performance, and CH₄ emissions.

106 MATERIAL AND METHODS

107 *Ethics Statement*

108 The experimental procedures were approved (2017/VSC/PEA/00182) by the
109 Committee on Animal Use and Care at the Polytechnic University of Valencia (UPV)
110 (Valencia, Spain), and followed the codes of practice for animals used in experimental
111 work proposed by the European Union (EU, 2003). Authors declare that this manuscript
112 does not involve ethical issues or affect any endangered or protected species.

113 *Animals and Diets*

114 The experiment was conducted at the Animal Science Department Experimental
115 Farm (UPV) (Valencia, Spain). Ten multiparous mature Murciano-Granadina dairy goats
116 in mid-lactation were selected and divided into two homogenous groups of five goats based
117 on similar body weight (BW; 45.3 ± 0.3 kg of BW) and milk production in the previous
118 lactation (640.29 ± 60 kg of milk per 210 ± 30 days of lactation).

119 The chemical composition of alfalfa, concentrates and whole mixed diet (forage
120 and pelleted concentrate) is reported in Table 1. Treatments were evaluated in a crossover
121 design (2 treatments crossed with 2 period) using diets fed as total mixed rations. Goats
122 were fed daily 1 kg alfalfa hay and 1.7 kg concentrate (37:63 forage to concentrate ratio).
123 Half the daily ration was offered at 0800 h and half at 1600 h. The concentrate and premix
124 were combined and pelleted. The control (CON) group was fed concentrate with 406 g/kg
125 of dry matter (DM) of barley grain, and the test group was fed concentrate in which 300 g
126 of orange leaves/kg DM and 190 g of rice straw/kg DM replaced barley grain (ORG). In
127 order to replace barley grain with orange leaves and rice straw, we relied on the nutritional
128 value information for orange leaves determined in our previous work (Fernández et al.

129 2019a) and literature information for rice straw (Van Soest, 2006). Nutrient requirements
130 followed published recommendations for lactating goats weighing 45 kg of BW and
131 producing 2.5 kg milk per day (Calsamiglia et al., 2019). Although the assessment of the
132 energy content of the diets as gross energy (GE) did not guarantee they were isoenergetic,
133 we aimed to achieve isoenergetic and isoproteic diets by adding soybean oil to the ORG
134 diet and the same sources of protein were used in both diets (field peas and horsebeans).

135 *Animals, Experimental Design and Measurements*

136 Apparent total tract digestibility, gas exchange, energy partitioning, C and N
137 balance, oxidation of nutrients and milk composition and yield were determined. The
138 experiment had two 33 d periods. During the adaptation period, goats were fed the
139 experimental diets in pens for 14 d and then allocated to individual metabolism cages (1.5
140 m long x 0.53 m wide x 1.65 m high) at thermoneutrality (20-23 °C determined by a Hobo
141 probe, ONSET data loggers, Cape Cod, MA, USA) for another 7 d. Subsequently, data on
142 feed offered and refused and total fecal, urine and milk output were recorded daily for each
143 goat during a 5 d period. In addition, BW at the beginning and end of the experimental
144 period were recorded. Over 5 consecutive days for each goat, daily total feces were
145 collected in wire-screen baskets placed under the floor of the metabolism crates and daily
146 total urine was collected through a funnel into plastic buckets containing 100 mL 10%
147 (vol/vol) of H₂SO₄. Acidification of urine was necessary to prevent microbial degradation
148 and loss of volatile ammonium. Feces and urine from each goat were weighed daily and
149 representative samples (10%) of diets, feces and urine stored at -20 °C until chemical
150 analyses.

151 Goats were milked once daily at 0800 h with a portable milking machine (Flaco,
152 model DL-170, J. Delgado S.A., Ciudad Real, Spain). Immediately after milking,
153 individual milk yield was measured and a sub-sample of 250 mL per animal was placed in

154 a bottle and frozen until analysis. In addition, samples were collected into plastic vials (50
155 mL per animal) that contained 20 mg of potassium dichromate as a preservative and taken
156 to the Interprofessional Dairy Laboratory of the Valencia Community Region (LICOVAL,
157 Valencia, Spain) for composition analysis (dry matter, crude protein, fat and lactose). Prior
158 to gas exchange determinations, goats were moved from metabolism cages to pens for 2 d
159 during which ruminal fluid and blood samples were collected. Ruminal fluid samples were
160 collected by stomach tube (50 mL) before the morning feeding following a procedure
161 described previously (Ramos-Morales et al., 2014). Ruminal fluid was strained through 4
162 layers of cheesecloth, and pH determined immediately using a portable pH meter (Model
163 265A, Orion Research Inc., Beverly, MA, USA). A sub-sample of ruminal fluid (4 mL)
164 was acidified with 50% H₂SO₄ and frozen until later determination of ammonium. Further
165 samples (0.9 mL) for analysis of VFA were mixed with H₃PO₄ (0.1 mL) and kept frozen
166 until analysis. Jugular blood was sampled in 10 mL tubes treated with EDTA and
167 immediately centrifuged for plasma separation and storage at – 20°C.

168 Gas exchange was measured for each goat during 24 h with an indirect calorimetric
169 system based on two ventilated head-box designed for small ruminants (5 d period). The
170 respirometry system was equipped with 2 head hoods, 2 flow-meters (Thermal Mass
171 Flowmeter Sensyflow VT-S, ABB, Alzenau, Germany) and 2 air suction provided by
172 centrifugal fans (CST60 Soler Palau Inc., Parets del Vallès, Barcelona, Spain).
173 Concentrations of CH₄ and carbon dioxide (CO₂) were measured using the infrared
174 principle, and O₂ measured with the paramagnetic principle (Easyflow Gas Analyzer,
175 model 3020, ABB, Alzenau, Germany). The CH₄ and CO₂ are measured using infrared
176 principle with a range from 0-0.15 and 0-1.5%, respectively. The analysis of O₂ works on
177 the paramagnetic principle with a range from 18-21%. Although the unit was an
178 autocalibrated model, analyzers were calibrated with reference gases before each test. The

179 mobile open-circuit respirometry system used for these measurements was described
180 previously (Fernández et al, 2012; Fernández et al., 2015; Fernández et al., 2019b). The
181 whole system was calibrated by injecting pure nitrogen (N₂) and CO₂ into the head box
182 (McLean and Tobin, 1987), determined gravimetrically using a precision scale (MOBBA
183 mini-SP 0.2–30 kg, Industrial Weighing System, Barcelona, Spain). Calibration factors
184 were calculated as described previously (Brockway et al., 1971). The CH₄ and CO₂
185 production and oxygen (O₂) consumption were calculated as described previously
186 (Aguilera and Prieto, 1986). An initial atmospheric air sample was collected and the gas
187 concentrations were used as reference for calculations.

188 *Chemical Analysis*

189 Feed, feed refusal and fecal samples were first dried in a forced-air oven at 55 °C
190 for 48 h then ground to pass a 1 mm screen before analysis. Urine and milk were lyophilized
191 prior to analyses. Chemical analyses of the diet, refusals and feces were conducted
192 according to AOAC (2000) for DM (934.01), ash (942.05) and ether extract (EE; 920.39).
193 The DM of diets and feces was determined by oven-drying at 102 ± 2 °C for 24 h. Ash
194 concentration was measured by incineration in an electric muffle furnace at 550 °C for 6 h.
195 The EE was extracted with petroleum ether after acid hydrolysis to recover saponified fat
196 (Soxhlet System HT Tecator, Hillerød, Denmark; 1047 Hydrolyzing Unit and 1043
197 Extraction Unit). The NDF and ADF were measured in an ANKOM Fiber Analyzer (A220,
198 ANKOM Technologies, Fairport, NY, USA) according to a published protocol (Mertens,
199 2002) and AOAC (2000), respectively. The NDF was determined using sodium sulfite and
200 alpha amylase. The NFC content of diets was calculated by difference based on chemical
201 analysis of individual feeds according to NRC (2001): $NFC = 100 - NDF - ash - CP - EE$.
202 The GE content of the dried samples (feed, feces, urine and milk) was analyzed by
203 combustion in an adiabatic bomb calorimeter (Gallenkamp Autobomb; Loughborough,

204 UK). Starch content was determined by an enzymatic method (α -amylase obtained from
205 Sigma-Aldrich, Steinheim, Germany) (Batey, 1982). The C and N were analyzed by the
206 Dumas principle (TruSpec CN; LECO Corporation, St. Joseph, MI, USA). Multiplying N
207 by a factor of 6.25 converted the results to CP.

208 Determination of ruminal VFA was based on a method described previously
209 (Jouany, 1982) using a gas chromatograph (Fisons 8000 series; Fisons Instruments SpA,
210 Milan, Italy) equipped with a split/splitless injector and flame ionization detector. Milk
211 composition (fat, protein, lactose, citrate and total milk solids content) was analyzed with
212 an infrared analyzer (MilkoScan FT120 Foss Electric, Hillerød, Denmark). Fatty acid
213 methyl esters of milk were prepared directly as previously described by O'Fallon et al.
214 (2007). The FA methyl esters were analyzed in a Focus Gas Chromatograph (Thermo,
215 Milan, Italy) equipped with a split/splitless injector and a flame ionization detector.
216 Separation of methyl esters was performed in a fused silica capillary column SPTM 2560
217 (Supelco, PA, USA) (100 m \times 0.25 mm \times 0.2 μ m film thickness). The carrier gas was
218 helium at a linear velocity of 20 cm/s. The samples were injected with a split ratio of 1/100.
219 The initial oven temperature was set at 140 °C held for 5 min and increased to 240 at 4
220 °C/min and finally maintained at that temperature for 30 min. Both detector and injector
221 temperatures were set at 260 °C. Two external standards were used for identification of
222 fatty acids and CLA isomers. Supelco 37 Component FAME MIX (CRM47885) for fatty
223 acids and Linoleic acid, conjugated methyl ester isomer mix (Sigma 05632) for CLA
224 isomers. Furthermore, for confirmatory purposes, the chromatographic profile obtained
225 was compared with those described previously by Kramet et al., 1997.

226 Analysis of glutamate and free amino groups was according to a published method
227 (Larsen and Fernández, 2017). Creatinine was analyzed according to standard procedures
228 (Siemens Diagnostics[®] Clinical Methods for ADVIA 1800). Plasma non-esterified fatty

229 acids (NEFA) were determined using the NEFA C ACS-ACOD assay method, BHB was
230 determined as proposed by Harano et al. (1985). Minor milk constituents such as glucose,
231 glucose-6-phosphate, malate, isocitrate, BHB, and uric acid were determined by
232 enzymatic-fluorometric methods (Larsen and Nielsen, 2005; Larsen and Moyes, 2010;
233 Larsen, 2014; Larsen, 2015). Plasma and milk urea were analyzed by flow injection
234 analyses (FIA) and enzymatic degradation. Application notes given by the manufacturer
235 were followed (Foss Tecator AB, Höganäs, Sweden).

236 *Calculations*

237 Fat corrected milk (**FCM**) at 4% were obtained according to a published equation
238 (Mavrogenis and Papachristoforou, 1988); $FCM (4\%) = \text{kg of milk} \times [0.411 + (0.147 \times \text{fat}$
239 $(\%))]$.

240 The ME intake (**MEI**) was calculated as the difference between GE intake (GEI)
241 and energy losses in feces (E_{feces}), urine (E_{urine}) and CH_4 (E_{CH_4} ; with an energy equivalent
242 value of 39.5 kJ/L CH_4 ; Brouwer, 1965).

243 Heat production (**HP**) was determined from measurements of O_2 consumption, CO_2
244 and CH_4 production, and urine N (N_{urine}), using the equation of Brouwer (1965):

$$245 \quad HP \text{ (kJ)} = 16.18 \times O_2 + 5.02 \times CO_2 - 2.17 \times CH_4 - 5.99 \times N_{\text{urine}}$$

246 where gases were expressed in liters per day and N_{urine} in grams per day. Recovered
247 energy was the difference between ME and HP. Energy retention in the body (RE_{body}) was
248 calculated as the difference between recovered energy and milk energy (E_{milk}).

249 Energy associated with the oxidation of protein (**OXF**), carbohydrate (**OXCHO**)
250 and fat (**OXF**) was calculated by published methods for ruminants (Brouwer, 1958;
251 Chwalibog et al., 1997). The CO_2 production from oxidation (CO_{2x}) was calculated as CO_2
252 $- (2 \times CH_4)$, according to Fahey and Berger (1988). Calculations were as follows:

$$253 \quad OXF = 6.25 \times N_{\text{urine}} \times 18.42 \text{ (kJ/g)},$$

254 $OXCHO = (-2.968 \times O_2 + 4.174 \times CO_{2x} - 2.446 \times N_{urine}) \times 17.58 \text{ (kJ/g)},$

255 $OXF = (1.719 \times O_2 - 1.719 \times CO_{2x} - 1.963 \times N_{urine}) \times 39.76 \text{ (kJ/g)}.$

256 Then, HP from oxidation (HPx) was:

257 $HPx \text{ (kJ)} = 16.18 \times O_2 + 5.02 \times CO_{2x} - 5.99 \times N_{urine}.$

258 Gases were expressed in liters per day and N_{urine} in grams per day. Heat of
259 fermentation (HPf) was estimated subtracting HP from HPx. Non-protein respiratory
260 quotient from oxidation of nutrients (RQnpx) was determined as: $RQnpx = (CO_{2x} - (N_{urine}$
261 $\times 6.25 \times 0.774)) / (O_2 - (N_{urine} \times 6.25 \times 0.957))$. For C and N balance, we followed the
262 equations and values proposed previously (McLean and Tobin, 1987), and the grams
263 retained in protein ($R_{protein}$) and fat (R_{fat}) were calculated.

264 Efficiency of ME to milk and maintenance (kls) was calculated according to INRA
265 (2018); $kls = 0.65 + 0.247 \times (q - 0.63)$, being q the metabolisability (ME/GE).

266 *Statistical Analysis*

267 The experiment was conducted as a crossover design: each goat received both
268 treatments in 2 periods. Effects of diet on intake, digestibility, ruminal fermentation, milk
269 performance, energy and C and N balances, and oxidation of nutrients were analyzed using
270 a mixed model (lme function from the nlme library) in R (2016). The following statistical
271 model was used:

272
$$Y = \mu + D + T + D \times T + \text{goat} + \varepsilon$$

273 Where: Y is the dependent variable, μ is the overall mean, and D and T are the fixed
274 effects of diet and period of time, respectively, and their interaction; goat is the random
275 effect of goat; and ε is the random error. Least squares mean were reported throughout and
276 differences were considered significant at $P < 0.05$.

277 **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

278 No significant effect was observed for period and their interaction in the crossover
279 design; thus, tables report only the effect of diet. The average value for the calibration
280 factor of O₂, CO₂ and CH₄ was 1.0021 ± 0.00110 (n = 4), 1.0015 ± 0.00922 (n = 4) and
281 0.9798 ± 0.00762 (n = 4), respectively. The consistent values confirmed the absence of
282 leaks from the entire open circuit indirect calorimetry system.

283 ***Feed Intake and Digestibility***

284 No difference in total DMI ($P > 0.05$) was observed between diets (2.23 kg/d, on
285 average) indicating animals in each group consumed the same amount of concentrate
286 (Table 2). Although both diets were formulated to be isoenergetic and soy hulls were added
287 to the CON diet to match its fiber content with ORG, the barley diet was more digestible
288 (Table 1). Thus, inclusion of rice straw into the ORG diet had a negative impact on
289 digestion as illustrated by the lower NDF digestibility with ORG than CON (37 vs. 55%,
290 respectively). This response was probably associated with the high lignin content in rice
291 straw (ADF digestibility was 34 and 48% for ORG and CON, respectively). The CP and
292 EE apparent total tract digestibility was lower ($P < 0.001$) in CON than ORG diet. Similar
293 results were obtained in a previous study (Romero et al., 2020) in dairy goats fed lemon
294 leaves and rice straw. Atikah et al. (2018) supplemented the diet with olive, palm or
295 sunflower oil and also reported greater apparent digestibility of CP and EE. Classical
296 studies (Palmquist and Jenkins, 1980) indicated that high dietary lipid was more likely to
297 inhibit fiber degradability with a concomitant reduction in fermentation, possibly due to
298 coating of feed particles and preventing bacterial attachment. Orange leaves (like other
299 citrus plants) also contain essential oils (Fernández et al., 2019a) that could contribute to
300 decreasing fiber and DM apparent digestibility through a direct effect on microorganisms.

301 ***Ruminal Fermentation***

302 Average ruminal pH never fell below 6.5 (Table 3) and was within a range 6.0–7.0,
303 suggesting that values obtained were sufficiently high to maintain normal ruminal
304 fermentation (Ørskov and Fraser, 1975). No differences between diets were observed for
305 NH₃-N, urea and VFA. Acetic and butyric acids are considered lipogenic substrates and
306 propionic acid is considered a glucogenic substrate (Knegsel et al., 2007). Differences (P
307 < 0.05) were detected when the ratio of acetic to propionic acid was determined, being
308 greater for ORG than CON. Thus, based on Knegsel et al. (2007), we speculate that the
309 CON diet had a tendency to behave like a glucogenic diet while the ORG diet seemed to
310 have a lipogenic behavior.

311 Free amino groups and glutamate were lower in ruminal fluid from goats fed ORG.
312 Dietary lipid has a strong inhibitory effect on protozoa and cellulolytic bacteria that can
313 cause reductions in carbohydrate fermentation and asynchrony between protein and
314 carbohydrate digestion for microbial protein synthesis (Casper et al., 1999), and ORG diet
315 had soya oil added and the lipids content from orange leaves. In contrast, isobutyric and
316 isovaleric acids were greater ($P < 0.05$) in response to ORG. Atikah et al. (2018) observed
317 greater isobutyric acid concentration in goats fed diets supplemented with olive oil and
318 Romero et al. (2020) a greater concentration of isovaleric acid in goats fed a ration that
319 included lemon leaves. Isobutyric and isovaleric acids are mainly generated during
320 degradation of branched-chain amino acids, thus, greater concentrations observed in goats
321 fed ORG suggested greater ruminal protein degradation and potentially a decrease in the
322 use of amino groups for microbial protein synthesis.

323 Plasma metabolites are reported in Table 3. Urea in plasma was greater ($P < 0.05$)
324 with ORG than CON perhaps because ORG had a little more protein, and it was slightly
325 more digestible. Greater ($P < 0.05$) plasma NEFA were observed with ORG than CON,
326 which agrees with the idea that ORG was more lipogenic than glucogenic. We speculate

327 that the greater plasma NEFA concentration with the ORG diet likely originated from
328 mobilized body fat reserves as indicated by the negative energy balance and fat retention
329 observed with ORG diet (discussed below).

330 *Energy Balance*

331 Due to similar DMI, no significant differences ($P > 0.05$) in GEI (2,203 kJ/kg of
332 $BW^{0.75}$, on average) were observed (Table 4). The lower digestibility in response to feeding
333 ORG led to greater energy losses in feces ($P < 0.001$). Urine energy losses also were greater
334 ($P < 0.001$) with ORG vs. CON, but a reduction ($P = 0.001$) in energy losses in CH_4 with
335 the ORG diet was detected (96 vs. 88 kJ/kg of $BW^{0.75}$ for CON and ORG, respectively).
336 Therefore, this response supported that higher urine losses could be because ORG animals
337 ate more digestible protein and, the significantly large decrease in NDF digestibility
338 observed in ORG diet (probably because of rice straw) possibly cause less CH_4 . Besides,
339 ORG diet had soybean oil added, and it was known to disrupt rumen bacteria populations
340 leading to shift in rumen biohydrogenation pathways and also rumen fermentation (such as
341 VFA and CH_4). Patra et al. (2017) and Correddu et al. (2020) reported that some plant
342 secondary metabolites, such as essential oils and polyphenols, may exert inhibitory effects
343 on the ruminal methanogenic activity, and orange leaves contain essential oils and tannins.
344 Larsen et al. (2016) reported that increasing the level of dietary starch and lipid and
345 decreasing NDF and ADF reduced CH_4 production.

346 Due to greater losses in feces and urine with the ORG diet, MEI was lower in
347 response to feeding ORG (a reduction of 158 kJ/kg of $BW^{0.75}$). In agreement with
348 digestibility results, the ORG diet was characterized by the lowest content and digestible
349 ME. Thus, results suggest that the CON compared with ORG diet, which was rich in starch
350 and had a fairly high NDF digestibility, supplied more ME. No differences were observed
351 in HP (730 kJ/kg of $BW^{0.75}$, on average). These values were in the range of previous work

352 with goats. In mid-lactating animals fed diets with 60% concentrate, Bava et al. (2001)
353 reported average values of 855 kJ/kg of $BW^{0.75}$ for Saanen goats and Tovar-Luna et al.
354 (2010) an average of 737 kJ/kg of $BW^{0.75}$ with Alpine goats. The E_{milk} was greater in ORG
355 than CON (476 vs. 446 kJ/kg of $BW^{0.75}$, respectively), the RE_{body} was lower ($P < 0.001$)
356 averaging 163 vs. -12 kJ/kg of $BW^{0.75}$ for CON and ORG, respectively.

357 These data indicated that goats fed ORG had greater energy in milk as a
358 consequence of the mobilization of lipid reserves (as observed with the negative RE_{body} in
359 ORG). In lactating ruminants, lipogenic nutrients can increase the partitioning of ME into
360 milk (increasing milk fat yield), and consequently decrease partitioning of ME into body
361 reserves (Van Kneysel et al., 2007). Thus, the present observations suggested that the lower
362 content of glucogenic nutrients in ORG (i.e., diet CON was greater in barley grain) did not
363 favor body fat deposition.

364 Efficiency of ME for milk and maintenance (kls), as defined by INRA (2018), was
365 lower ($P < 0.05$) in response to feeding ORG (0.65 vs. 0.63, respectively). Similar values
366 (0.67 and 0.63, respectively) were reported for Granadina (Aguilera et al., 1990) and Alpine
367 goats (Tovar-Luna et al., 2010), respectively.

368 Differences between diets ($P = 0.03$) were detected for ME when expressed per kg
369 of DM; 11 and 9 MJ/kg of DM for CON and ORG, respectively, indicating that diets were
370 not isoenergetic.

371 *Oxidation of Nutrients*

372 Production of CO_2 is derived from nutrient oxidation and ruminal fermentation.
373 Thus, separation between these two components is necessary to calculate substrate
374 oxidation and the proportion that supports total HP associated with oxidative processes.
375 Diet had no effect on HPx and differences ($P < 0.05$) were observed in HPf, with lower
376 values in response to feeding ORG (Table 5). Oxidation of nutrients as OXP was greater

377 ($P < 0.001$) in ORG than CON (19% vs. 14%, respectively), which agreed with the greater
378 energy losses (Table 4) and N excreted in urine (Table 6). The OXCHO was lower ($P <$
379 0.001) (41% vs. 56%, respectively) and OXF greater ($P < 0.05$) with ORG than CON (40%
380 and 30%, respectively). Namely, the OXCHO was predominant in the diet with more cereal
381 and greater digestibility, while in the diet with more fibrous by-products, OXF was major.
382 It is possible that protein metabolism and lipid mobilization supported the greater milk
383 energy (Table 4) when the ORG diet was fed. We must bear in mind that the gas exchange
384 method does not discriminate between oxidation of exogenous and endogenous glucose,
385 thus, the data more closely represented net catabolism of glucose. Goats fed ORG had a
386 reduction of OXCHO as a result of lower starch intake.

387 Because dietary fat content in ruminant diets is typically low, the greater
388 contribution of OXF with the ORG diet probably originated from mobilization of reserves
389 (Derno et al., 2013). Few studies in ruminants related to oxidation of nutrients are available.
390 Chwalibog et al. (1997) using calves with positive retained energy as fat suggested that a
391 part of OXF originates from ingested carbohydrate, mainly fiber. A significant difference
392 ($P < 0.001$) was observed for RQnpx, with ORG resulting in lower values than CON (0.83
393 vs. 0.90, respectively). These responses might have been the result of differences in starch
394 content in the diet and the consequent increase in HP associated with oxidation of
395 carbohydrates. An RQnpx value lower than 1 indicates predominance of OXF compared
396 with OXCHO (Chwalibog et al., 1997), as was observed in this study.

397 ***Carbon and Nitrogen Balance***

398 The C and N balance are shown in Table 6. The C balance followed the same
399 tendency than for energy balance. Although greater N intake ($P < 0.05$) and N in urine were
400 detected due to feeding ORG (0.3 g/kg of BW^{0.75}), no differences were observed for N in
401 feces. Urinary N is largely represented by urea, and is therefore more rapidly nitrified with

402 consequent emission of ammonia. Thus, urinary N is less desirable and shifting N excretion
403 from urine to feces may be useful as Brito and Broderick (2007) reported. Total N excretion
404 was greater ($P < 0.05$) (3.03 vs. 2.79 g/kg of $BW^{0.75}$), N in milk lower (0.70 vs. 0.73 g/kg
405 of $BW^{0.75}$), and N retained in the body greater when ORG was fed (0.22 vs. 0.16 g/kg of
406 $BW^{0.75}$). From the C and N balance data obtained we estimated retention of protein and fat
407 (according to McLean and Tobin, 1987). These theoretical estimates indicated that feeding
408 CON led to more fat retention, while feeding ORG led to more fat mobilization. Thus, the
409 R_{fat} was approximately 68 g/animal in CON and -16 g/animal in ORG (Table 6).

410 ***Milk Production, Metabolites and Fatty Acids***

411 Diet had an effect on milk yield with goats fed ORG producing on average 0.26
412 kg/d less (Table 7). However, when milk yield was expressed as FCM, no differences were
413 detected (2.81 kg/d on average), but we have to keep in mind that goats fed ORG diet were
414 in negative energy balance. No differences were detected when milk production was
415 expressed relative to DMI; 0.98 for milk yield/DMI and 1.27 for FCM/DMI. Milk
416 composition was similar to data reported for the Murciano-Granadina breed (Beltrán et al.,
417 2013). However, milk from goats fed ORG had greater content of DM, fat and cheese
418 extract. The ORG diet was richer in lipogenic nutrients and greater milk fat percentage, in
419 contrast, the glucogenic nutrients in the CON diet decreased milk fat components, as
420 hypothesized Knegsel et al. (2007). In recent years, goat's milk production has risen
421 markedly in the countries traditionally producers such as Spain, which produces 22.6 % of
422 the goat's milk in the European Union (FAOSTAT, 2020) ranking second after France
423 (31.9 %). In Spain, farmers are paid based on two components in the milk; protein and fat
424 (protein plus fat is the cheese extract). The cheese extract was greater ($P < 0.001$) in ORG
425 than CON (10.7 vs. 9.6%, respectively). Thus, the present data suggest that inclusion of
426 orange leaves and rice straw in the diet of dairy goats positively affected the commercial

427 value of milk in a payment system based on cheese extract such as in Spain (Pirisi et al.,
428 2007), avoiding the economic loss due to the reduction of milk yield.

429 No significant differences were observed for most milk metabolites studied. As
430 expected, milk urea nitrogen followed same pattern as plasma urea nitrogen. Plasma
431 glucose is the obligatory precursor needed for milk lactose synthesis, where glucose 6
432 phosphate is an intermediate component. Glucose content of milk was lower ($P < 0.05$) in
433 response to feeding ORG, a trend reported previously (Larsen et al., 2016) in cows fed a
434 high- vs. low-digestible diets. Because goats fed ORG were in negative energy balance,
435 metabolites related to fat mobilization such as BHB were greater ($P < 0.05$) in milk (77 vs.
436 74 μM in ORG and CON diet, respectively).

437 Under negative energy balance, body fat mobilization coincided with high plasma
438 concentration of BHB (Xu et al., 2020) as expected. The isocitrate concentration with the
439 ORG compared with CON diet (140 vs. 103 mM, respectively) was greater ($P < 0.05$),
440 suggesting that isocitrate increased with negative energy balance and lipid mobilization.
441 Ours results were in line with others studies in dairy cows reporting that milk citrate was
442 an indicator of negative energy balance and reflected its role in fat synthesis in the
443 mammary gland (Xu et al., 2020).

444 Diet (e.g., forage-to-concentrate ratio, forage type) is the main environmental
445 parameter regulating milk fat synthesis and fatty acid composition in ruminants (Bernard
446 et al., 2009; Chilliard et al., 2013; Nudda et al., 2013). In the present study, replacement of
447 barley grain with byproducts (fibrous and with higher polyunsaturated FA (PUFA) content)
448 and the addition of soybean oil to equilibrate dietary energy, led to greater milk fat content
449 (6.5% vs. 5.5%, ORG and CON). Fatty acid composition of milk fat (Table 8) was similar
450 to values reported for the Murciano-Granadina breed (Sanz Ceballos et al., 2009).
451 According to a previous study (Chilliard et al., 2003), the content of FA with 16 or fewer

452 carbon atoms derives from *de novo* synthesis, whereas those with 18 or more carbons arise
453 from the diet or lipid mobilization. In our study no differences were found between diets
454 in FA with 16 or fewer carbon atoms (29.62 g/100 g of milk fat, on average), whereas
455 greater values ($P < 0.05$) with 18 or more carbon atoms were found for ORG than CON
456 (29.68 vs. 17.66 g/100 g of milk fat, respectively). Concentration of FA with C12:0, C14:1,
457 C16:0 and C17:0 was lower ($P < 0.05$) in goats fed ORG. Milk C16:0 was 8% lower in
458 goats fed ORG. Milk C16:0 results mainly from *de novo* FA synthesis in mammary tissue
459 using acetate produced in the rumen during fiber digestion, with CH₄ output positively
460 correlated with milk C16:0 (Fievez et al., 2012).

461 Greater values ($P < 0.05$) of C4:0, C6:0, C8:0, C18:0, C18:1, C18:2, C20:0,
462 C18:3n3 and CLA were observed when we feeding ORG (Table 8). The increase in C18:0
463 and CLA with ORG probably was associated with greater intake of PUFA (soybean oil
464 added to ORG diet) and, thus, greater rate of biohydrogenation (Loor et al., 2002). High
465 rates of fat mobilization led to marked increases in plasma concentrations of NEFA, BHB
466 and accumulation of triacylglycerol in the liver, and also could increase milk fat content
467 (Bjerre-HarpØth et al., 2012). As NEFA are particularly rich in long-chain FA such as
468 C18:1n9c and C18:0 (Hosten et al., 2012; Vlaeminck et al., 2015), concentrations in milk
469 fat of those FA might be linked to negative energy balance. Our results were similar to
470 those reported recently (Fernández et al., 2018; Romero et al., 2020) when animals were
471 fed lemon leaves. Atherogenicity and thrombogenic indices in milk were calculated as
472 indicated previously (Ulbricht and Southgate, 1991), and from a human health standpoint
473 the lower indices observed when ORG was fed suggested not only that orange leaf and rice
474 straw are effective at maintaining milk quality, but also could enhance its beneficial
475 properties.

476 ***Methane Emissions***

502 agricultural by-products could serve as a viable alternative to reduce controlled burning
503 while recycling these wastes towards milk production, and reduction of greenhouse gas
504 emissions.

505

506

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

507 This study was supported by LIFE Project, Spain (ref. LIFE2016/CCM/ES/000088 LOW
508 CARBON FEED), funded by the EU Commission (Brussels, Belgium). The authors have
509 not stated any conflicts of interest.

510

REFERENCES

- 511 Aguilera, J. F., and C. Prieto. 1986. Description and function of an open-circuit respiration
512 plant for pigs and small ruminants and the techniques used to measure energy
513 metabolism. *Arch. Anim. Nutr.* 11:1009-1018.
- 514 Aguilera, J. F., C. Prieto, and J. Fonollá. 1990. Protein and energy metabolism of lactating
515 Granadina goats. *Br. J. Nutr.* 63:165-175.
- 516 AOAC International. 2000. Official Methods of Analysis of the Association of Official
517 Analytical Chemists, 18th ed. Association of Official Analytical Chemists, Arlington,
518 VA, USA.
- 519 Atikah, I. N., A. R. Alimon, H. Yaakub, N. Abdullah, M.F. Jahromi, M. Ivan, and A. A.
520 Samsudin. 2018. Profiling of rumen fermentation, microbial population and
521 digestibility in goats fed with dietary oils containing different fatty acids. *BMC Vet.*
522 *Res.* 4: 344.
- 523 Bampidis, V. A., and P. H. Robinson. 2006. Citrus by-products as ruminant feeds: A
524 review. *Anim. Feed Sci. Technol.* 128:175-217.
- 525 Batey, I. L. 1982. Starch analysis using thermostable alpha-amylases. *Stach/Stärke.*
526 34:125-128.
- 527 Bava, L., L. Rapetti, G.M. Crovetto, A. Tamburini, A. Sandrucci, G. Galassi, and G. Succi
528 2001. Effects of a Nonforage Diet on Milk Production, Energy, and Nitrogen
529 Metabolism in Dairy Goats throughout Lactation *J. Dairy Sci.* 84:2450-2459.
- 530 Beltrán, M. C., T. Romero, R. L. Althaus, and M. P. Molina. 2013. Evaluation of the Charm
531 maximum residue limit β -lactam and tetracycline test for the detection of antibiotics
532 in ewe and goat milk. *J.Dairy Sci.* 96: 2737-2745.
- 533 Bernard, B. L., K. J. Shingfield, J. Rouel, A. Ferlay, and Y. Chilliard. 2009. Effect of plant
534 oils in the diet on performance and milk fatty acid composition in goats fed diets based
535 on grass hay or maize silage. *Br. J. Nutr.* 101: 213-224.
- 536 Bjerre-Harpøth, V., N. C. Friggens, V.M. Thorup, T. Larsen, B. M. Damgaard, K. L.
537 Ingvarsen, and K. M. Moyes. 2012. Metabolic and production profiles of dairy cows
538 in response to decreased nutrient density to increase physiological imbalance at
539 different stages of lactation. *J. Dairy Sci.* 95:2362-2380.

- 540 Brito, A. F., and G. A. Broderick. 2007. Effects of different protein supplements on milk
541 production and nutrient utilization in lactating dairy cows. *J. Dairy Sci.* 90:1816–
542 1827.
- 543 Brockway, J. M., A. W. Boyne, and J. G. Gordon. 1971. Simultaneous calibration of gas
544 analyzers and meters. *J. Appl. Physiol.* 31:296-297.
- 545 Brouwer, E. 1958. On simple formulae for calculating the heat expenditure and the
546 quantities of carbohydrate and fat metabolized in ruminants, from data on gaseous
547 exchange and urine N. Pages 182-194 in *Proc. 1th Symposium on Energy Metabolism.*
548 EAAP. Publ. 8. Academic Press, London, UK.
- 549 Brouwer, E. 1965. Report of sub-committee on constants and factors. In: Blaxter, K.L.
550 (Ed.), Pages 441-443 in *Proc. of the 3th Symposium on Energy Metabolism.* EAAP.
551 Publ. 11. Academic Press, London, UK.
- 552 Calsamiglia, S., A. Bach, C. de Blas, C. Fernández, and P. García-Rebollar. 2009.
553 Nutritional requirements for dairy ruminants. *Fundación Española para el Desarrollo*
554 *de la Nutrición Animal (FEDNA).* Madrid, Spain.
- 555 Cao, Y., T. Takahashi, and K. Horiguchi. 2009. Effects of addition of food by-products on
556 the fermentation quality of a total mixed ration with whole crop rice and its
557 digestibility, preference, and rumen fermentation in sheep. *Anim. Feed Sci.*
558 *Technol.* 151:1-11.
- 559 Casper, D. P., H. A. Maiga, M. J. Brouk, and D. J. Schingoethe. 1999. Synchronization of
560 carbohydrate and protein sources on fermentation and passage rates in dairy cows. *J.*
561 *Dairy Sci.* 28:1779-1790.
- 562 Chilliard, Y., P. G. Toral, K. J. Shingfield, J. Rouela, C. Leroux, and L. Bernarda. 2013.
563 Effects of diet and physiological factors on milk fat synthesis, milk fat composition
564 and lipolysis in the goat: A short review. *Small Rum. Res.* 122: 31-37.
- 565 Chilliard, Y., A. Ferlay, J. Rouel, and G. Lamberet. 2003. A review and nutritional and
566 physiological factors affecting goat milk lipids synthesis and lipolysis. *J. Dairy Sci.*
567 86:1751-1770.
- 568 Chwalibog, A., A. H. Tauson, and G. Thorbek. 1997. Quantitative oxidation of nutrients
569 in growing calves. *Z. Ernährungswiss.* 36:313-316.
- 570 Correddu, F., M. F. Lunesu, G. Bufa, A. S. Aztori, A. Nudda, G. Battacone, and G. Pulina.
571 2020. Can agro-industrial by-products rich in polyphenols be advantageous used in the
572 feeding and nutrition of dairy small ruminants? *Animals* 10:131.
- 573 Derno, M., G. Nürnberg, P. Schön, A. Schwarm, H. M. Hammon, C. C. Metges, R. M.
574 Bruckmaier, and B. Kuhla. 2013. Short-term feed intake is regulated by
575 macronutrients oxidation in lactating Holstein cows. *J. Dairy Sci.* 96:971-980.
- 576 Desbois, A. P., and V. J. Smith. 2010. Antibacterial free fatty acids: activities, mechanisms
577 of action and biotechnological potential. 85:1629-1642
- 578 Domínguez-Escribá, L., and M. Porcar. 2010. Rice straw management: The big waste.
579 *Biofuel. Bioprod. Biorefin.* 4: 154-159.
- 580 EAP, Environment Action Programme to 2020 European Commission 2020. Available
581 online: <https://ec.europa.eu/environment/action-programme/index.htm> (accessed on
582 12 July 2020).
- 583 EFEAGRO. 2016. EFE agency for the Agrifood Sector, 28036 Madrid, Spain.
584 <http://efeagro.com/> (accessed 2 September 2020)
- 585 European Union. 2003. Protection of animals used for experimental purposes. Council
586 Directive 86/609/EEC of 24 November 1986, amended 16.9.2003. European Council,
587 Brussels, Belgium.

588 EUROSTAT, 2020. European Commission Data Base available at:
589 <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database> (accessed 2 September 2020)

590 Fahey, G. C., and L. L. Berger. 1988. Carbohydrate nutrition of ruminants. Pages 269-297
591 in Church, D.C. (Ed.), *The Ruminant Animal. Digestive Nutrition and Physiology*.
592 Prentice-Hall, Englewood Cliffs, NJ.

593 FAOSTAT, 2020. FAO Statistical Data Base Food and Agricultural Organization of the
594 United Nations, Rome, Italy available at: <http://faostat.fao.org/> (accessed 2 September
595 2020)

596 Fernández, C., I. Pérez-Baena, J.V. Martí, J.L. Palomares, J. Jorro-Ripoll, and J.V. Segarra.
597 2019a. Use of orange leaves as a replacement for alfalfa in energy and nitrogen
598 partitioning, methane emissions and milk performance of Murciano-Granadina goats.
599 *Anim. Feed Sci. Technol.* 247:103-111.

600 Fernández, C., J. Gomis-Tena, A. Hernández, and J. Saiz. 2019b. An open circuit indirect
601 calorimetry head hood system for measuring methane emissions and energy
602 metabolism in small ruminants. *Animals.* 9:380.

603 Fernández, C., J. V. Martí, I. Pérez-Baena, J. L. Palomares, C. Ibáñez, and J.V. Segarra.
604 2018. Effect of lemon leaves on energy and CN balances, methane emission, and milk
605 performance in Murciano-Granadina dairy goats. *J. Anim. Sci.* 96:1508-1518.

606 Fernández, C., M. C. López, and M. Lachica. 2012. Description and function of a mobile
607 open-circuit respirometry system to measure gas exchange in small ruminants. *Anim.*
608 *Feed Sci. Technol.* 172:242-246.

609 Fernández, C., M. C. López, and M. Lachica. 2015. Low cost open-circuit hood system for
610 measuring gs exchange in small ruminants: from manual to automatic recording. *J.*
611 *Agri. Sci.* 153:1302-1309.

612 Fievez, V., E. Colman, J. M. Castro-Montolla, I. Stefanov, and B. Vlaeminck. 2012. Milk
613 odd- and branched-chain fatty acids as biomarkers of rumen function; An update.
614 *Anim. Feed Sci. Technol.* 172:51-65.

615 Guardiola, L., C. Monerri, and M. Agusti. 2008. The inhibitory effect of gibberellic acid
616 on flowering in Citrus. *Physiol. Plantarum.* 55:136-42.

617 Harano, Y., M. Ohtsuki, M. Ida, H. Kojima, M. Harada, T. Okanishi, A. Kashiwagi, Y.
618 Ochi, S. Uno, and Y. Shigeta. 1985. Direct automated assay method for serum or urine
619 levels of ketone bodies. *Clin. Chim. Acta,* 151:177-183.

620 Hostens, M., V. Fievez, J. L. M. R. Leroy, J. Van Ranst, B. Vlaeminck, and
621 G. Opsomer. 2012. The fatty acid profile of subcutaneous and abdominal fat in dairy
622 cows with left displacement of the abomasum. *J. Dairy Sci.* 95:3756-3765.

623 INRA feeding system for ruminants. 2018. Wageningen Academic Publishers,
624 Wageningen. The Netherlands.

625 Johnson, K. A., and D. E. Johnson. 1995. Methane emissions in cattle. *J. Anim. Sci.*
626 73:2483-2492.

627 Jouany, J. P. 1982. Volatile fatty acid and alcohol determination in digestive contents,
628 silage juices, bacterial cultures and anaerobic fermentor contents. *Sci. Aliments.*
629 2:131-144.

630 Khettal, B., N. Kadri, K. Tighilet, A. Adjebli, F. Dahmoune, and F. Maiza-Benabdeslam
631 2017. Phenolic compounds from Citrus leaves: antioxidant activity and enzymatic
632 browning inhibition. *J. Complement. Integr Med.* 14: 20160030

633 Knapp, J. R., G. L. Laur, P. A. Vadas, W .P. Weis, and J. M. Tricarico. 2014. *Invited*
634 *review: Enteric methane in dairy cattle production: Quantifying the opportunities and*
635 *impact of reducing emissions.* *J. Dairy Sci.* 97:3231-3261.

- 636 Kramer, J. K. G., V. Fellner, M. E. R. Dugan, F. D. Sauer, M. M. Mossoba, and M.P.
637 Yurawecz. 1997. Evaluating acid and base catalysts in the methylation of milk and
638 rumen fatty acids with special emphasis on conjugated dienes and total trans fatty
639 acids. *Lipids*. 2(11):1219-1228.
- 640 Kumar, P., S. Kumar, and L. Joshi. 2015. Socioeconomic and Environmental Implications
641 of Agricultural Residue Burning: A Case Study of Punjab, India. Springer
642 Nature, Cham, pp. 144, ISBN: 978-81-3222014-5.
- 643 Larsen, T., and C. Fernández. 2017. Enzymatic-fluorometric analyses for glutamine,
644 glutamate and free amino groups in protein-free plasma and milk. *J. Dairy Res.* 84:32-
645 35.
- 646 Larsen, T., L. Alstrup, and M. R. Weisbjerg 2016. Minor milk constituents are affected by
647 protein concentration and forage digestibility in the feed ration. *J. Dairy Res.* 83:12-
648 19
- 649 Larsen, T. 2015. Fluorometric determination of free glucose and glucose 6-phosphate in
650 cow's milk and other opaque matrices. *Food Chem.* 166:283-286.
- 651 Larsen, T. 2014. Fluorometric determination of free and total isocitrate in bovine milk. *J.*
652 *Dairy Sci.* 97:7498-7504.
- 653 Larsen, T., and K. M. Moyes. 2010. Fluorometric determination of uric acid in bovine milk.
654 *J. Dairy Res.* 77:438-444.
- 655 Larsen, T., and N. I. Nielsen. 2005. Fluorometric determination of β -hydroxybutyrate in
656 milk and blood plasma. *J. Dairy Sci.* 88:2004-2009.
- 657 Loor, J.J., A. B. Bandara, and J. H. Herbein. 2002. Characterization of 18:1 and 18:2
658 isomers produced during microbial biohydrogenation of unsaturated fatty acids from
659 canola and soya bean oil in the rumen of lactating cows. *J. Anim. Physiol. Anim. Nutr.*
660 (Berl) 86(11-12):422-32. doi: 10.1046/j.1439-0396.2002.00403.x.
- 661 Matias, J., V. Cruz, A. García, and D. González. 2019. Evaluation of rice straw yield, fibre
662 composition and collection under mediterranean conditions. *Acta Technol. Agric.* 22:
663 43-47.
- 664 Mavrogenis, A.P., and C. Papachristoforou. 1988. Estimation of the energy value of milk
665 and prediction of fat-corrected milk yield in sheep and goats. *Small Rum. Res.* 1: 229-
666 236.
- 667 McLean, J. A., and G. Tobin. 1987. *Animal and Human Calorimetry*. Cambridge
668 University Press, Cambridge.
- 669 Mertens, D. R. 2002. Gravimetric determination of amylase-treated neutral detergent fibre
670 in feeds with refluxing beakers or crucibles: collaborative study. *J. AOAC Int.*
671 85:1217-1240.
- 672 Miller, B. A., and C. D. Lu. 2019. Current status of global dairy goat production: an
673 overview. *Asian-australas J. Anim. Sci.* 32:1219-1232.
- 674 NRC. 2001. National Research Council. *Nutrient requirements of dairy cattle*. 7th rev. ed.
675 Natl. Acad. Press, Washington, D.C. USA.
- 676 Nudda, A., G. Battacone, A. S. Atzori, C. Dimauro, S. P. G. Rassa, P. Nicolussi, P. Bonelli,
677 and G. Pulina. 2013. Effect of extruded linseed supplementation on blood metabolic
678 profile and milk performance of Saanen goats. *Animal*. 7:1464-1471.

679 O'Fallon, J. V., J. R. Busboom, M. L. Nelson, and C. T. Gaskins. 2007. A direct method
680 for fatty acid methyl ester synthesis: Application to wet meat tissues, oils, and
681 feedstuffs. *J. Anim. Sci.* 85:1511-1521.

682 Ørskov, E. R., and C. Fraser. 1975. The effects of processing of barley-based supplements
683 on rumen pH, rate of digestion and voluntary intake of dried grass in sheep. *Br. J. Nutr.*
684 34:493-500.

685 Palmquist, D. L., and T. C. Jenkins. 1980. Fat in lactation rations: Review. *J. Dairy Sci.*
686 63:1-14.

687 Patra, A., T. Park, K. Minseok, and Z. Yu. 2017. Rumen methanogens and mitigation of
688 methane emission by anti-methanogenic compounds and substances. *J. Anim. Sci and*
689 *Biotech.* 8:13.

690 Patra, A., and Z. Yu. 2012. Effect of essential oils on methane production and fermentation
691 by, and abundance and diversity of, rumen microbial populations. *Appl. Environ.*
692 *Microbiol.* 78(12):4271-4280.

693 Pirisi, A., A. Lauret, and J. P. Dubuef. 2007. Basic and incentive payments for goat and
694 sheep milk in relation to quality. *Small Rumin. Res.* 68:167-178.

695 R Core Team (2016). R: A language and environment for statistical computing. *R*
696 *Foundation for Statistical Computing*, Vienna, Austria. URL [https://www.R-](https://www.R-project.org/)
697 [project.org/](https://www.R-project.org/).

698 Ribó, M., R. Albiach, F. Pomares, and R. Canet. 2017. Alternativas de gestión de la paja
699 de arroz en la Albufera de Valencia. Nota Técnica. Instituto Valenciano de
700 Investigaciones Agrarias, Valencia, Spain.

701 Ramos-Morales, E., A. Arco-Pérez, A. I. Martín-García, D. R. Yáñez-Ruiz, P. Frutos, and
702 G. Hervás. 2014. Use of stomach tubing as an alternative to rumen cannulation to study
703 ruminal fermentation and microbiota in sheep and goats. *Anim. Feed Sci. Technol.*
704 198:57-66.

705 Romero, T., I. Pérez-Baena, T. Larsen, J. Gomis-Tena, J. J. Loor, and C. Fernández. 2020.
706 Inclusion of lemon leaves and rice straw into compound feed and its effect on nutrient
707 balance, milk yield, and methane emissions in dairy goats. *J. Dairy Sci.* 103:6178-6189

708 Sanz Ceballos, L., E. Ramos Morales, G. de la Torre Adarve, J. Díaz Castro, L. Pérez
709 Martínez, and M. R. Sanz-Sampelayo. 2009. Composition of goat and cow milk
710 produced under similar conditions and analyzed by identical methodology. *J. Food*
711 *Compost. Anal.* 22:322-329

712 Segarra, J., J. Jorro, E. Merloni, and A. Duarte. 2019. The transformation of citrus waste
713 in bioproducts. Techniques, methodologies and technologies. Manual for agricultural
714 vet teachers. CitriVET Project Consortium, pp. 82, ISBN: 978-989-8859-89-1.

715 Spek, J.W., J. Dijkstra, G. Van Duinkerken, and A. Bannink. 2013. A review of factors
716 influencing milk urea concentration and its relationship with urinary urea excretion in
717 lactating dairy cattle. *J. Agric. Sci.* 151:407-423.

718 Tovar-Luna, I., R. Puchala, T. Sahlu, H. C. Freetly, and A. L. Goetsch. 2010. Effects of
719 stage of lactation and dietary concentrate level on energy utilization by Alpine dairy
720 goats. *J. Dairy Sci.* 93:4818-4828.

721 Ulbricht, T.L., and DA. T. Southgate. 1991. Coronary Heart Disease: Seven Dietary
722 Factors. *Lancet*, 338:985-992.

- 723 Van Knegsel, A.T.M., H. van den Brand, J. Dijkstra, W. M. van Straalen, M. J. Heetkamp,
724 S. Tamminga, and B. Kemp. 2007. Dietary energy source in dairy cows in early
725 lactation: energy partitioning and milk composition. *J. Dairy Sci.* 90:1467-1476.
- 726 Van Soest, P. J. 2006. Rice Straw, the role of silica and treatments to improve quality.
727 *Anim. Feed Sci. Technol.* 130:137-171.
- 728 Vlaeminck, B., R. Gervais, M. M. Rahman, F. Gadeyne, M. Gorniak, M. Doreau, and V.
729 Fievez. 2015. Postruminal synthesis modifies the odd- and branched-chain fatty acid
730 profile from the duodenum to milk. *J. Dairy Sci.* 98:4829-4840.
- 731 Xu, W., J. Vervoot, E. Saccenti, B. Kemp, R.J. van Hoeij, and A.T.M. van Knegsel. 2020.
732 Relationship between energy balance and metabolic profiles in plasma and milk of
733 dairy cows in early lactation. *J. Dairy Sci.* 103:4795-4805.
- 734

Table 1. Ingredients and chemical composition of the diets

Item	Test Feeds		Forage	Compound Feed		Diet ¹	
	Rice Straw	Orange Leaves	Alfalfa	Control	Orange & Rice	CON	ORG
Ingredients, g/kg DM							
Alfalfa hay			1000			370	370
Barley				406	50	256	32
Orange leaves		1000			300	0	189
Rice straw	1000				190	0	120
Soy hulls				350		221	0
Field pea, spring				100	200	63	126
Horsebeans				100	190	63	120
Beet molasses				20	20	13	13
Soybean oil					30	0	19
Calcium carbonate				13	10	8	6
Sodium chloride				4	3	3	2
Dicalcium phosphate				3	3	2	2
Premix ²				4	4	3	3
Chemical composition, % of DM							
DM	88	91	93	93	94	93	94
OM	75	81	83	87	83	86	83
Ash	13	9	10	6	11	7	11
CP	4	12	22	15	16	18	18
Ether extract	0.8	2.1	2.0	1.7	3.3	1.8	2.8
NDF	57	30	42	43	30	42	35
ADF	40	23	28	23	18	25	22
ADL	5.2	5.6	7.1	0.9	2.2	3.2	4.0
NFC ³	26	47	24	35	39	31	33
Starch	1.4	0.5	1.4	27	19	18	12
Carbon	41	42	42	41	41	42	42
Nitrogen	0.6	1.9	3.6	2.4	2.6	2.8	2.9
Carbon : Nitrogen	70	22	12	17	16	15	15
Gross energy, MJ/kg DM	16	17	16	17	17	17	16

¹ CON = Control; ORG = orange leaves and rice straw.

² Premix = Provided by NACOOP S.A. España composition (ppm or IU per kilogram of premix): Se, 40 mg/kg; I, 250 mg/kg; Co, 80 mg/kg; Cu, 3,000 mg/kg; Fe, 6,000 mg/kg; Zn, 23,400 mg/kg; Mn, 29,000 mg/kg; S, 60,000 mg/kg; Mg, 60,000 mg/kg; vitamin A, 2,000,000 IU/kg; vitamin D3, 400,000 IU/kg; vitamin E, 2,000 ppm; nicotinic acid, 10,000 ppm; choline, 20,300 ppm.

³NFC = non fibrous carbohydrate content: 100 - (NDF + ash + CP + EE).

Table 2. Body weight, intake, and apparent digestibility coefficients (% of DM) of Murciano-Granadina goats (n = 10) during mid-lactation according to the type of diet

Item	Diet ¹		SEM ³	P-value
	CON	ORG		
BW, kg	45.7	45.0	0.52	0.491
DMI, kg/d	2.20	2.26	0.023	0.2397
Concentrate DMI, kg/d	1.47	1.51	0.011	0.3144
Forage DMI, kg/d	0.73	0.75	0.020	0.5734
Apparent total-tract digestibility, %				
DM	68	60	0.61	0.001
OM	70	63	0.54	0.001
CP	70	72	0.42	0.001
Ether extract	67	71	1.00	0.001
NDF	55	37	1.15	0.001
ADF	48	34	1.03	0.001
NFC ²	91	86	0.43	0.001
Energy	69	62	0.54	0.001

¹ CON = Control; ORG = orange leaves and rice straw.

² NFC = non fibrous carbohydrate content: 100 - (NDF + ash + CP + ether extract).

Table 3. pH, ammonia-N (NH₃-N), and VFA from rumen and plasma metabolites of Murciano-Granadina goats (n = 10) during mid-lactation according to the type of diet

Item ¹	Diet ²			
	CON	ORG	SEM	<i>P</i> -value
pH	6.5	6.8	0.10	0.0553
NH ₃ -N, mg/dL	14.4	14.3	0.44	0.913
Urea, mM	9.8	7.3	0.82	0.130
Free amino groups, mEq/L	2.62	1.34	0.292	0.025
Glutamate, mM	398	210	42.7	0.023
Total VFA, mM	38.8	37.2	3.54	0.830
Individual VFA, mM				
Acetic acid	20.50	21.38	1.913	0.825
Propionic acid	7.95	7.00	0.850	0.591
Isobutyric acid	0.40	0.55	0.026	0.002
Butyric acid	8.51	6.67	0.764	0.239
Isovaleric acid	0.47	0.67	0.039	0.006
n-Valeric acid	0.82	0.72	0.083	0.528
n-Caproic acid	0.13	0.11	0.021	0.708
Heptanoic acid	0.04	0.14	0.026	0.053
Acetic/Propionic ratio	2.58	3.05	0.103	0.045
Plasma metabolites				
Urea, mM	6.96	8.74	0.348	0.006

Glucose, mM	2.94	2.80	0.120	0.557
BHB, mM	0.33	0.37	0.029	0.488
NEFA ³ , mEq/L	395	705	71.1	0.025

¹NH₃-N = ammonia nitrogen.

²CON = Control; ORG = orange leaves and rice straw.

³NEFA = non-esterified fatty acids.

Table 4. Daily energy partitioning (kJ/kg of BW^{0.75}) of Murciano-Granadina goats (n = 10) during mid-lactation according to the type of diet

Item ¹	Diet ²			
	CON	ORG	SEM	<i>P</i> -value
GEI	2189	2217	27.5	0.586
E _{feces}	687	842	15.7	0.001
E _{urine}	61	101	3.6	0.001
E _{CH4}	96	88	1.3	0.001
MEI	1345	1187	20.7	0.001
E _{milk}	446	476	13.4	0.001
HP	736	733	8.9	0.114
RE _{body}	163	-12	24.1	0.001
kls	0.65	0.63	0.012	0.037
MJ/kg of DM				
GE	17	17	0.2	0.78
DE	12	10	0.3	0.04
ME	11	9	0.3	0.03

¹ GEI = gross energy intake; E_{feces} = energy losses in feces; E_{urine} = energy losses in urine; E_{CH4} = energy losses in methane; MEI = metabolizable energy intake; E_{milk} = recovered energy in milk; HP = heat production; RE_{body} = recovered energy in tissue (RE_{body} = MEI - HP - E_{milk}); kls = ME efficiency for milk production according to INRA (2018); DE = digestible energy; ME = metabolizable energy.

² CON = Control; ORG = orange leaves and rice straw.

Table 5. Heat production (kJ/kg of BW^{0.75}) from oxidation of nutrients (kJ/kg of BW^{0.75}) and their contribution to the heat production (%) of Murciano-Granadina goats (n = 10) during mid-lactation according to the type of diet

Item ¹	Diet ²		SEM	P-value
	CON	ORG		
HPx, kJ/kg of BW ^{0.75}	713	702	8.7	0.117
HPf, kJ/kg of BW ^{0.75}	24	21	0.3	0.001
OXp, kJ/kg of BW ^{0.75}	101	136	5.5	0.001
OXCHO, kJ/kg of BW ^{0.75}	405	287	14.0	0.001
OXF, kJ/kg of BW ^{0.75}	206	278	9.8	0.001
OXp/HPx, %	14	19	0.9	0.001
OXCHO/HPx, %	56	41	1.6	0.001
OXF/HPx, %	30	40	1.6	0.001
RQnpx	0.90	0.83	0.005	0.001

¹HPx = heat production from oxidation of nutrients; HPf = heat production of fermentation [HPf = HP – HPx (Brouwer, 1958)]; OXP = heat production associated with the oxidation of protein; OXCHO = heat production associated with the oxidation of carbohydrates; OXF = heat production associated with the oxidation of fat; RQnpx = nonprotein respiratory quotient (unitless) from oxidation of nutrients $\{[\text{CO}_{2x} - (\text{N}_{\text{urine}} \times 6.25 \times 0.774)] / [\text{O}_2 - (\text{N}_{\text{urine}} \times 6.25 \times 0.957)]\}$, where CO₂ = CO₂ production from oxidation and Nurine = N in urine}.

²CON = Control; ORG = orange leaves and rice straw.

Table 6. Carbon and nitrogen balance (g/kg of BW^{0.75}) of Murciano-Granadina goats (n = 10) during mid-lactation according to the type of diet

Item ¹	Diet ²			P-value
	CON	ORG	SEM	
C _{intake}	52.75	53.87	0.674	0.089
C _{feces}	17.98	22.83	0.443	0.001
C _{urine}	1.51	2.39	0.866	0.001
C _{CO2}	19.57	18.00	0.256	0.001
C _{CH4}	1.31	1.19	0.017	0.001
C excretion	40.37	44.40	0.540	0.001
C _{milk}	8.89	9.46	0.267	0.334
C _{body retained}	3.50	0.01	0.541	0.018
N _{intake}	3.67	3.94	0.056	0.009
N _{feces}	1.90	1.84	0.040	0.408
N _{urine}	0.88	1.18	0.047	0.001
N excretion	2.79	3.03	0.060	0.023
N _{milk}	0.73	0.70	0.021	0.001
N _{body retained} ³	0.16	0.22	0.056	0.001
R _{protein, g/d per goat}	17	24	6.1	0.535
R _{fat, g/d per goat}	68	-16	10.3	0.003

¹C_{intake} = C intake; C_{feces} = C losses in feces; C_{urine} = C losses in urine; C_{CO2} = C losses in CO₂; C_{CH4} = C losses in methane; C_{milk} = recovered C in milk; C_{body retained} = recovered C in tissue; N_{intake} = N intake; N_{feces} = N losses in feces; N_{urine} = N losses in urine; N_{milk} = recovered N in milk; N_{body retained} = recovered N in tissue; R = recovered protein or fat.

² CON = Control; ORG = orange leaves and rice straw.

³ N_{body retained} = is apparently retained.

Table 7. Daily milk production, composition and metabolites of Murciano-Granadina goats (n = 10) during mid-lactation according to the type of diet

Item	Diet ¹			
	CON	ORG	SEM	<i>P</i> -value
Milk yield, kg/day per goat	2.32	2.06	0.062	0.0278
FCM ² , kg/day per goat	2.82	2.81	0.051	0.3256
Feed efficiency				
Milk yield/DMI	1.05	0.91	0.100	0.2055
FCM/DMI	1.28	1.25	0.025	0.3561
Chemical composition, %				
Fat	5.5	6.5	0.12	0.001
Protein	4.1	4.2	0.05	0.584
Lactose	4.6	4.7	0.03	0.342
Non-fat dry extract	9.5	9.6	0.06	0.212
Cheese extract ³	9.6	10.7	0.16	0.001
Milk metabolites				
Glutamate, μM	174	146	19.7	0.499
Free amino groups, mEq/L	1.86	1.65	0.070	0.136
Urea, mM	6.8	8.3	0.28	0.006
Uric acid, mM	30	30	7.7	0.983
Creatinine, mM	309	290	21.8	0.668
Glucose 6P, mM	192	186	10.6	0.786
Glucose, mM	68	54	4.1	0.033

Malate, mM	71	53	8.2	0.267
Isocitrate, mM	103	140	10.5	0.047
BHB, μ M	74	77	1.2	0.043

¹ CON = Control; ORG = orange leaves and rice straw.

² FCM = fat corrected milk.

³ Cheese extract = milk fat + milk protein.

Table 8. Fatty acid (FA) composition (g/100 g of milk fat) of milk fat for goats fed the experimental diets (n=10)

Item ¹	Diet ²			
	CON	ORG	SEM	P-value
C4:0	0.619	0.767	0.0376	0.0462
C6:0	1.507	1.968	0.0970	0.0130
C8:0	2.041	2.705	0.1314	0.0074
C10:0	8.649	9.756	0.3314	0.0954
C11:0	0.338	0.307	0.0164	0.3536
C12:0	5.628	4.687	0.2391	0.0457
C14:0	9.373	9.018	0.3173	0.5900
C14:1	0.217	0.156	0.0150	0.0374
C15:0	0.850	0.645	0.0605	0.0891
C16:0	25.869	23.763	0.5461	0.0222
C16:1	0.764	0.580	0.0500	0.0639
C17:0	0.520	0.317	0.0332	0.0005
C17:1	0.182	0.166	0.0072	0.2719
C18:0	3.199	6.103	0.4004	0.0001
C18:1n9t	0.708	2.380	0.2579	0.0002
C18:1n9c	9.452	14.680	0.7716	0.0001
C18:1n7	0.183	0.531	0.0533	0.0001
C18:2n6t	0.184	0.301	0.0166	0.0001
C18:2n6c	2.537	3.457	0.1894	0.0107
C20:0	0.081	0.139	0.0078	0.0001
C18:3n6	0.014	0.009	0.0019	0.1948
C20:1	0.030	0.032	0.0028	0.7804

C18:3n3	0.430	0.585	0.0320	0.0110
CLA 9c11t	0.501	0.997	0.0742	0.0001
CLA 9t11c	0.051	0.085	0.0050	0.0001
CLA 10t12c	0.003	0.009	0.0008	0.0001
CLA 9c11c	0.008	0.013	0.0009	0.0001
CLA 9t11t	0.062	0.099	0.0069	0.0041
C20:2	0.009	0.011	0.0060	0.3842
C22:0	0.018	0.060	0.0056	0.0001
C20:3n6	0.000	0.004	0.0015	0.1700
C22:1n9	0.008	0.019	0.0081	0.5434
C20:3n3	0.000	0.001	0.0005	0.3084
C20:4n6	0.157	0.130	0.0123	0.2722
C24:0	0.002	0.010	0.0015	0.0040
C20:5n3 EPA	0.025	0.026	0.0029	0.8760
Short-chain FA	4.17	5.44	0.264	0.0115
Medium-chain FA	14.61	14.75	0.455	0.8873
Long-chain FA	55.44	64.33	2.045	0.0253
FA with 16C or fewer ³	29.22	30.01	0.784	0.7043
FA with 18C or higher	17.66	29.68	2.335	0.0384
Saturated FA	58.70	60.25	1.762	0.6725
Monounsaturated FA	11.55	18.54	1.029	0.0001
Polyunsaturated FA	3.99	5.75	0.307	0.0017
n-6	2.89	3.90	0.202	0.0081
n-3	0.46	0.61	0.032	0.0101
n-6 / n-3 ratio	6.55	6.44	0.312	0.8581
Thrombogenic index	2.60	2.01	0.292	0.0050
Atherogenicity index	4.78	2.85	0.112	0.0001

¹CLA = conjugated linoleic acid; EPA = eicosapentaenoic acid; Thrombogenic index = $(C14:0 + C16:0 + C18:0) / [0.5 \times \text{mono-unsaturated} + 0.5 \times n-6 + 3 \times n-3 + (n-6/n-3)]$; Atherogenicity index = $C12:0 + 4 \times C14:0 + C16:0 / \text{unsaturated fatty acids}$ (Ulbricht and Southgate. 1991).

²CON = Control; ORG = orange leaves and rice straw.

³ According to Chilliard et al. (2003).

Table 9. Methane emission of Murciano-Granadina goats (n = 10) during mid-lactation according to the type of diet

Item ¹	Diet ²		SEM	<i>P</i> -value
	CON	ORG		
CH ₄ , g/d	30.2	27.2	0.35	0.001
CH ₄ /CO ₂ in breath	0.07	0.07	0.001	0.638
Y _m , %	4.4	4.0	0.07	0.002
CH ₄ /DMI, g/kg	13.8	12.1	0.22	0.001
CH ₄ /cheese extract, g/kg	143	130	3.63	0.047
CH ₄ /milk, g/kg	13.6	14.3	0.48	0.437

¹Y_m = methane energy/gross energy intake.

²CON = Control; ORG = orange leaves and rice straw.