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Title: Crushed flaxseed *versus* flaxseed oil in the diets of Nubian goats: Effect on feed intake, digestion, ruminal fermentation, blood chemistry, milk production, milk composition and milk fatty acid profile

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Crushed flaxseed *versus* flaxseed oil in the diets of Nubian goats: Effect on feed intake, digestion, ruminal fermentation, blood chemistry, milk production, milk composition and milk fatty acid profile

Running title: Flaxseed enhances milk nutritive value

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Highlights (for review)

- Flaxseed oil and whole seeds were compared.
- Flaxseed oil and seeds increased nutrient digestibility.
- Flaxseed oil decreased the ruminal pH and acetate proportion.
- Flaxseed oil and seeds increased milk production and milk (feed) efficiency.
- Additives decreased milk SFA and increased UFA and CLA.
- Crushed flaxseed is preferable to flaxseed oil.

Abstract:

Plant oils or oil-rich seeds that are rich in unsaturated fatty acids can be used as feedstocks to modify milk fatty acid profiles. The effect of providing lactating Nubian goats with flaxseed oil or crushed seeds on the feed intake, digestion, ruminal fermentation, lactational performance and milk fatty acid profile was assessed. Fifteen lactating does, weighing 33.2 ± 0.8 kg after parturition, were randomly assigned to three treatments in a quintuplicated 3×3 Latin square design. Does were stratified according to their previous milk production, parity and expected average milk yield in a 90-day experiment. Does were fed a basal diet containing

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