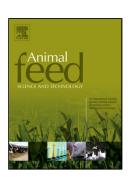
### Accepted Manuscript

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## ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

## Comparison of faecal crude protein and n-alkanes techniques to estimate herbage intake by grazing sheep

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#### Highlights

- Herbage intake by sheep grazing Italian ryegrass was studied
- Intake was measured using n-alkanes and faecal crude protein
- Faecal crude protein and n-alkanes are satisfactory predictors of herbage intake
- $C_{31}:C_{32}$  n-alkane ratio is more accurate to estimate herbage intake

#### Abstract

This paper has the following objectives: i) evaluate which of the two techniques, n-alkanes or faecal crude protein (fCP), and their equations had the highest accuracy in estimating DM intake by sheep; and ii) evaluate which ratio option of n-alkanes ( $C_{31}$ : $C_{32}$  or  $C_{33}$ : $C_{32}$ ) was most accurate in estimating sheep DM intake. The experimental design was a randomised complete block with three replicates (paddocks) and repeated measures on time (periods), arranged in a two-level factorial design, with two stocking methods (continuous and rotational) and two grazing

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