

## Accepted Manuscript

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PII: S0921-4488(17)30279-1

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.smallrumres.2017.10.007>

Reference: RUMIN 5575

To appear in: *Small Ruminant Research*

Received date: 7-3-2017

Revised date: 11-9-2017

Accepted date: 18-10-2017

Please cite this article as: Smeti, S., Hajji, H., Mekki, I., Mahouachi, M., Atti, N., Effects of dose and administration form of rosemary essential oils on meat quality and fatty acid profile of lamb. *Small Ruminant Research* <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.smallrumres.2017.10.007>

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## Effects of dose and administration form of rosemary essential oils on meat quality and fatty acid profile of lamb

Running title: Rosemary extracts supply and lambs' meat quality

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### Highlights

- The effects of dose and administration form of rosemary essential oils on meat quality and fatty acid profile of lamb were investigated.
- The percentage of omega 6 (PUFA n-6), the PUFA / saturated fatty acids (SFA), and n-6/n-3 ratios increased with the oral administration of rosemary essential oils.
- The oral administration of REO could improve lamb's meat quality.

### ABSTRACT

The effects of the dose rates and administration form of Rosemary essential oils (REO) on lambs' meat quality were investigated. Thirty two Barbarine lambs were allotted to 4 homogeneous groups and fed oat-hay *ad libitum* with 500 g of concentrate. Rosemary oils were orally administrated in a dose of 0.3 and 0.6 ml/day to lambs of O-R1 and O-R2 groups, respectively. It was mixed to the concentrate in an equivalent dose of 0.3 ml /day for the Mix-R1 group, while the control group (C) did not receive REO. The administration of REO has not improved the daily individual hay intake ( $P > 0.05$ ) which averaged 652 g dry matter (DM). Similarly, neither the presence of REO (Cst 1) nor the dose (Cst 2) or the incorporation form

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