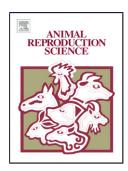
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ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

Serum progesterone concentrations during FSH superstimulation of the first follicular wave affect embryo production in sheep

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Highlights

- The effect of progesterone (P4) during wave 1 was evaluated in FSH treated sheep.
- P4 treatment increased circulating P4 without affecting estradiol concentrations.
- Fertilization rate and embryo quality was improved in P4 treated ewes.
- We recommend the induction of high P4 concentrations during the FSH treatment.

ABSTRACT

The aim of the present study was to evaluate the effect of serum progesterone concentrations during the superstimulatory treatment of the first follicular wave on fertilization rate and embryo development in sheep. A total of 71 Merino ewes received a superstimulatory FSH treatment during Wave 1 of ovarian follicular development (Day 0 Protocol), which was administrated under low progesterone concentrations typical of the early luteal phase (control group, n = 33) or under high progesterone concentrations induced by the administration of an intravaginal device from Day 0 to Day 3 containing

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