

**Effects of Feeding Discarded Dates on Growth
Performance and Meat Quality Traits of Najdi Lambs**

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Abstract

A total of 21 Najdi male lambs was used to evaluate inclusion of discarded dates in lambs' diets. Experimental diets are presented in two levels 15 and 30% to replace commercial concentrate mixture. The results showed that daily feed intake was significantly ($p < 0.05$) higher in the 30% group than the control group. Feed conversion ratio did not differ significantly ($p > 0.05$) between the treatment groups. The highest averages of daily gain and final weight were attained by 30% group which is significantly ($p < 0.05$) higher than that of the control group followed by the 15% group that is not differ significantly ($p > 0.05$) from both other groups. Carcass components showed no significant differences between the treatments except for liver and lungs and trachea. The results revealed that feeding lamb on 30% discarded date was associated with improving meat quality traits as juiciness, flavor and general acceptability.

Keywords: Discarded-dates, lambs, meat, price, energy, Najdi