

Effect of the type of forage (Grazing vs. Hay) and the inclusion of condensed tannins in ewe's diet on milk quality and suckling lamb's growth

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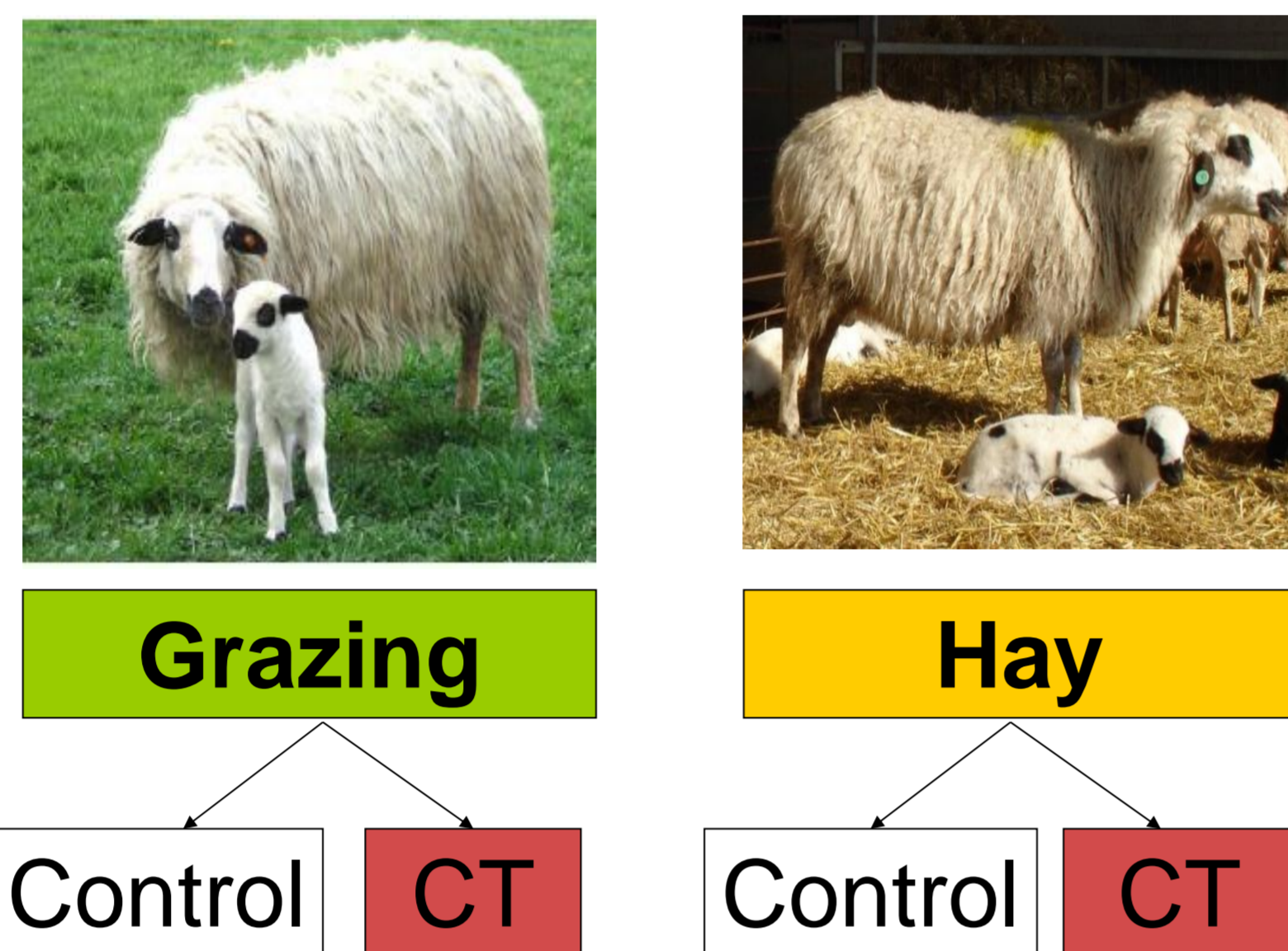
Ewes are usually stalled around parturition and are fed hay plus concentrate during lactation while lambs are fed maternal milk. Grazing management could be a interesting alternative to stall-feeding. Moreover, the inclusion of tannins in the diet reduces methane emissions of the ewe and could improve their performance.

OBJECTIVE

Evaluate the effect of type forage (grazing vs. hay) and the inclusion of condensed tannins (CT) in the concentrate fed to lactating ewes on milk yield and composition and on the performance of the suckling lamb.

Materials and Methods

- 39 pairs of ewe-lamb
- Spring 2014



4-april → 10-may

Lambing

Slaughter

Live weight: 10-12 kg
Maximum : 35 days of age

Sampling:

- **Weekly:**
 - Milk production and quality
 - Weight
- **At slaughter:**
 - Cold carcass weight, after carcass cooling (4°C 24h)
 - Dressing percentage

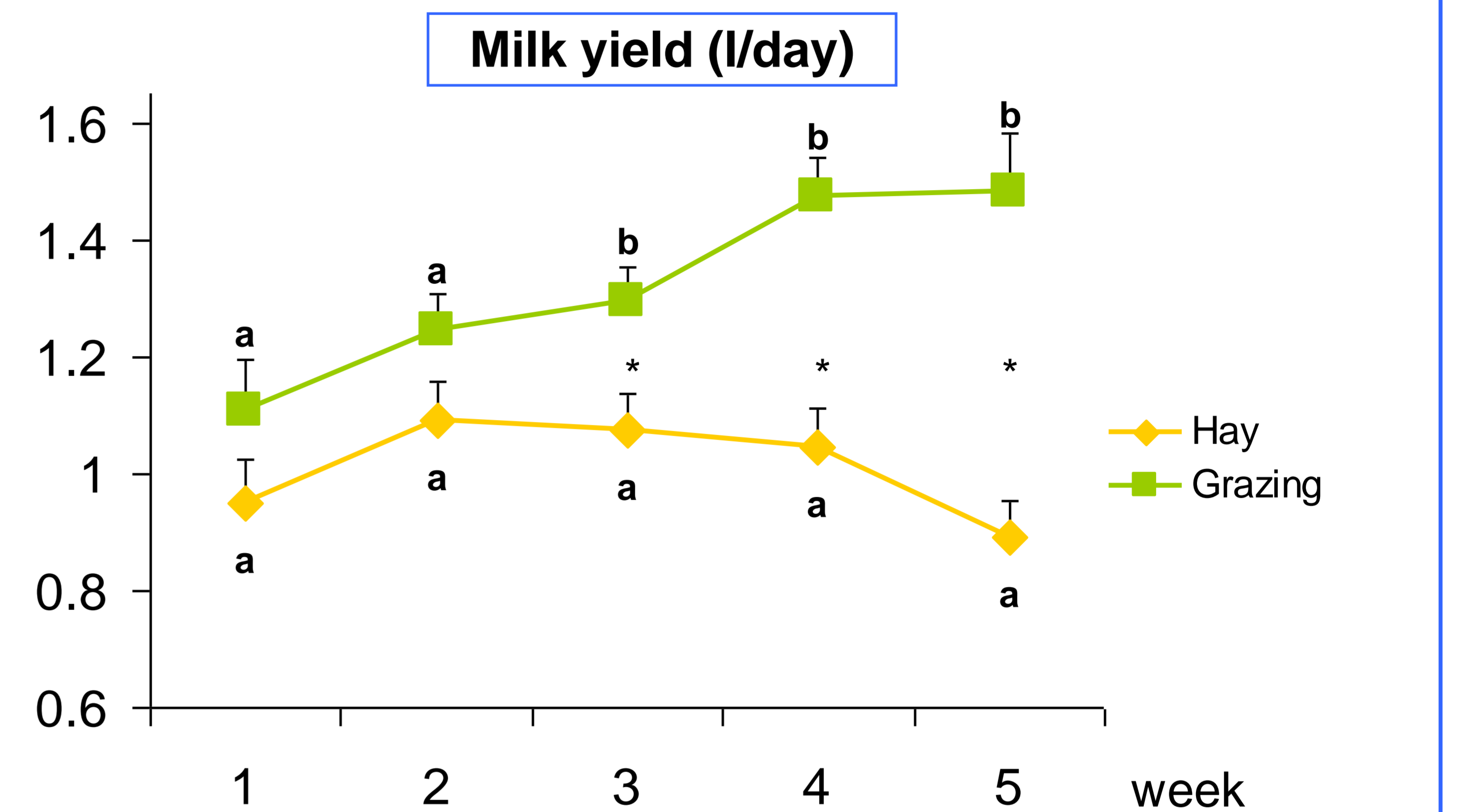


CONCLUSIONS

Grazing improved milk production and composition, and lamb performance, so it can be a good alternative to hay-feeding of lactating ewes.

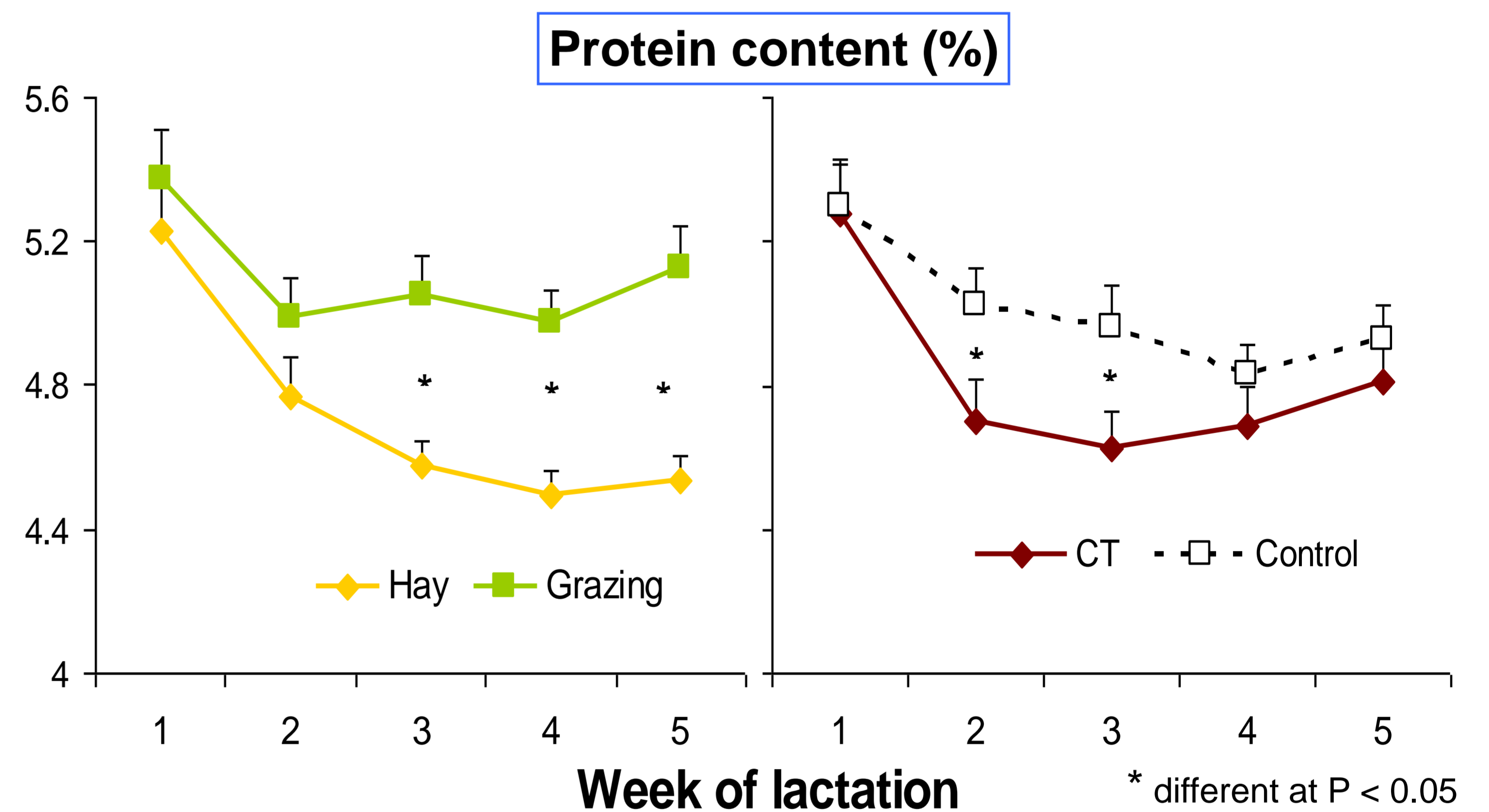
Condensed tannins under the present conditions did not have effects on ewe's and lamb's performance.

Results



For each forage, a,b different at P<0.05
In a week, * different between Grazing and Hay at P<0.05

- ❖ Grazing increased milk yield from the 3rd week
- ❖ Condensed Tannins did not affect on milk yield.



* different at P < 0.05

- ❖ Grazing ewes → higher protein content in milk (3, 4 and 5 week).
- ❖ Condensed Tannins → reduced protein content (2,3 week).
- ❖ 1st week of lactation → higher protein content

Fat, lactose and somatic cell count

- ❖ No effects

Lamb's performance

	Hay	Grazing	Control	CT
Weight gains (kg/d)	0.22b	0.28a	0.24	0.26
Live weight at slaughter (kg)	10.6b	11.6a	11.1	11.1
Age at slaughter (d)	34.9	32.1	35.3	31.8
Dressing percentage (%)	56.31b	58.44a	56.77	57.99

Within a row, a,b different at P<0.05

- ❖ Lambs from grazing dams had greater average gains, live weights and dressing percentage.

- ❖ Condensed Tannins had not effects.

