

COMPOSITION AND MILK YIELD OF MALAWIAN LOCAL GOAT: A L Mwenefumbo and R K D Phoya; Department of Livestock Production, University of Malawi, Bunda College of Agriculture, P O Box 219, Lilongwe, Malawi.

Malawian local goats were used to find out milk yield and composition under natural grazing.  
(Key words: goats, milk yield, milk composition)

Eight lactating Malawian goats were used for lactation studies over a period of 16 weeks. The does were grazed on natural pasture with the rest of the herd and received no supplementary feed, while their kids were penned and fed indoors. The kids were allowed to suckle twice daily (morning and evening) for 3 - 5 minutes every day except Mondays and Thursdays, and the milk yield was determined by the differences in the weight of the kid before and after suckling. On Mondays the does were injected with 1 ml of oxytocin intramuscularly (to improve milk letdown) and then milked by hand and again the milk was weighed. The kids were then allowed to suckle and the residual milk left in the udder was determined as previously mentioned.

The mean daily milk yield was  $0.29 \pm 0.06$  kg per head for suckling,  $0.21 \pm 0.05$  kg per head for hand-milking and  $0.23 \pm 0.06$  kg per head for hand-milking with oxytocin. There was a significant difference between the suckling and other methods ( $P < 0.01$ ), but no significant differences between the two hand-milking methods.

Table:

The composition of milk of Malawian goats

Parameter	$\bar{x}$
Fats	$6.7 \pm 0.82$
Lactose	$6.3 \pm 0.79$
Crude Protein	$2.2 \pm 0.43$
Ash	$1.1 \pm 0.31$
Solids-non-fats	$9.6 \pm 0.81$

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