

# **Dietary Intake of Goats on Pasture Mixtures at Three Spatial Scales. (C06-burgess143736-Poster)**

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## **Abstract:**

Grazing is the cheapest and potentially most profitable option for producing goat meat. However, there is uncertainty about the animals' preferred forage species. Four forage species (red clover, orchardgrass, birdsfoot trefoil, and chicory) were offered to goats in three spatial scales of mixtures. When offered a mixture of all species (0-0.1 m between species) the intake was lowest (14.35 g/m<sup>2</sup>). When offered each species in a separate pot (0.2-0.4 m between species), intake was the greatest (82.09 g/m<sup>2</sup>). And when offered each species in a separate area (1-5 m between species), intake was 55.92 g/m<sup>2</sup>. Species preference was in the order of: red clover > orchardgrass > chicory > birdsfoot trefoil. It was concluded that both species competition and the pattern of presentation affect goat intake.

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