



## Effect of Rumenzyme Cobalt Plus on Liveweight Gain in Lambs

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### Introduction

Donaghys Rumenzyme Cobalt Plus (RZCP) is an advanced liquid probiotic extract formulation for use in sheep, cattle and deer. It works by activating beneficial rumen microbes, promoting rumen development and boosting Vitamin B12 levels in order to improve microbial function and enhance digestion and feed conversion.

### Materials and Methods

The trial took place on a commercial irrigated sheep farm in Kirwee, Mid Canterbury. 210 lambs were given a drench and weaned onto pasture on 14 December 2007. 70 lambs were given a 4 ml drench of RZCP and tagged with yellow eartags. A control group of 70 lambs were dosed with 4 ml of water and tagged with white eartags. A further flock of 70 lambs were given 4 ml of ProLamb, a non-commercialised product containing live microbes.

Lambs were weighed on 24 December 2007 and 4 January 2008. Data was analysed over this period and relevant trends noted. Final average daily liveweight gain (ADG) was calculated and a single factor analysis of variance (ANOVA) was performed in Microsoft Excel to test for the difference in means.

### Results

There was no significant difference in liveweight gain between treatments over the course of the trial (Table 1). Average flock liveweight did not alter significantly throughout the trial.

**Table 1: Liveweights and ADG of lambs throughout the trial.**

Timing	Control	RZCP	ProLamb
Start (6/12/2007) (kg)	28.72	28.98	28.28
10 Days (24/12/2007) (kg)	28.38	28.42	27.72
3 Weeks (8/1/2008) (kg)	28.84	28.50	27.99
10 Day LWG (grams)	-44 <sup>A</sup>	-41 <sup>A</sup>	-62 <sup>A</sup>
3 Weeks LWG (grams)	0 <sup>A</sup>	-34 <sup>A</sup>	-15 <sup>A</sup>

### Conclusions

There was no statistical difference in average daily liveweight gain (ADG) between RZCP treated lambs and control animals.