

MILK COMPOSITION AND YIELD OF THE RED SOKOTO (MARADI) GOATS IN NIGERIA:
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Lactational studies in Red Sokoto (Maradi) goats are described. (Key words: goat, milk yield, composition).

Eight adult Red Sokoto (Maradi) goats were used for lactation studies over three consecutive lactations of 15 weeks. At the start of the trial the goats weighed between 30 and 35 kg and were about two years old. The does were housed in individual pens with free access to salt licks and drinking water. Freshly cut grass *Cynodon nlemfuensis* ad libitum plus 1 kg of the concentrate (maize meal 58%, groundnut cake 18.5%, palm kernel cake 12% meat/bone meal 2.5%, vitamin mix 4% and salt 4%) was fed to each individual daily.

The goats were hand milked twice daily and daily samples were bulked from each animal for subsequent analysis. The average weekly milk yield per head was 3.28 ± 1.78 kg. The composition of colostrum and milk are shown in Table 1.

Table 1:
Composition of colostrum and milk of Red Sokoto goats

	Total solids %	Crude protein %	Fats %	Lactose mg/g	Gross energy (KJ/100g)
Colostrum	17.9 ± 0.63	5.1 ± 0.16	6.6 ± 0.91	48.5 ± 10.01	458 ± 10.01
Milk	15.7 ± 0.14	4.7 ± 0.01	4.6 ± 0.10	52.5 ± 7.18	381 ± 11.4

The composition of the colostrum approached normal values on the sixth day after parturition. The values obtained for total solids lactose and gross energy declined with advance in lactation and there was a steady fall in milk yield which was statistically significant ($P < 0.01$).

Figure 1:
Milk yield and total solids of Red Sokoto (Maradi) goats

