

Alternative feed diet in collared peccary

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Developing diets for collared peccary (*Tayassu tajacu*) from locally available food resources in Bahia, Brazil

Abstract

The collared peccary has the ability to handle a large amount of roughage in its diet. Such a characteristic represents an attractive asset since the species could utilize byproducts of human food and farm production that have little current outlet. In order to improve the economic viability of collared peccary farming, this study concentrated on the reduction of costs through the establishment of diets based on locally available foodstuff resources. We identified 20 foodstuffs potentially useful for feeding collared peccaries, and their specific nutritional content and digestibility coefficients were determined by chemical and in vivo digestibility analysis, respectively. We determined the preference order and voluntary consumption of some of these foods. We used six pen-raised adult collared peccaries and six metabolism chambers. With the data on voluntary intake and digestibility, and the nutritional requirements found in the literature we established four experimental diets for collared peccary, two for reproductive animals and two for growing individuals.

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