

Effects of dried distillers grains as a replacement for soybean meal in a Boer goat diet

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Introduction

- There has been rapid growth of the US goat industry over the past 15 years.
- The per protein unit cost advantage of dried distillers grains (DDGS) over soybean meal (SBM) is \$1.86.
- The lack of peer-reviewed, published research evaluating DDGS inclusion in goats limits producers' ability to save money and utilize the feed ingredient.
- Due to the rapid growth of the goat industry, it's also a missed opportunity for the corn industry.

Objective

To evaluate the efficacy of DDGS as a replacement for SBM in a Boer goat diet.

Experimental Procedures

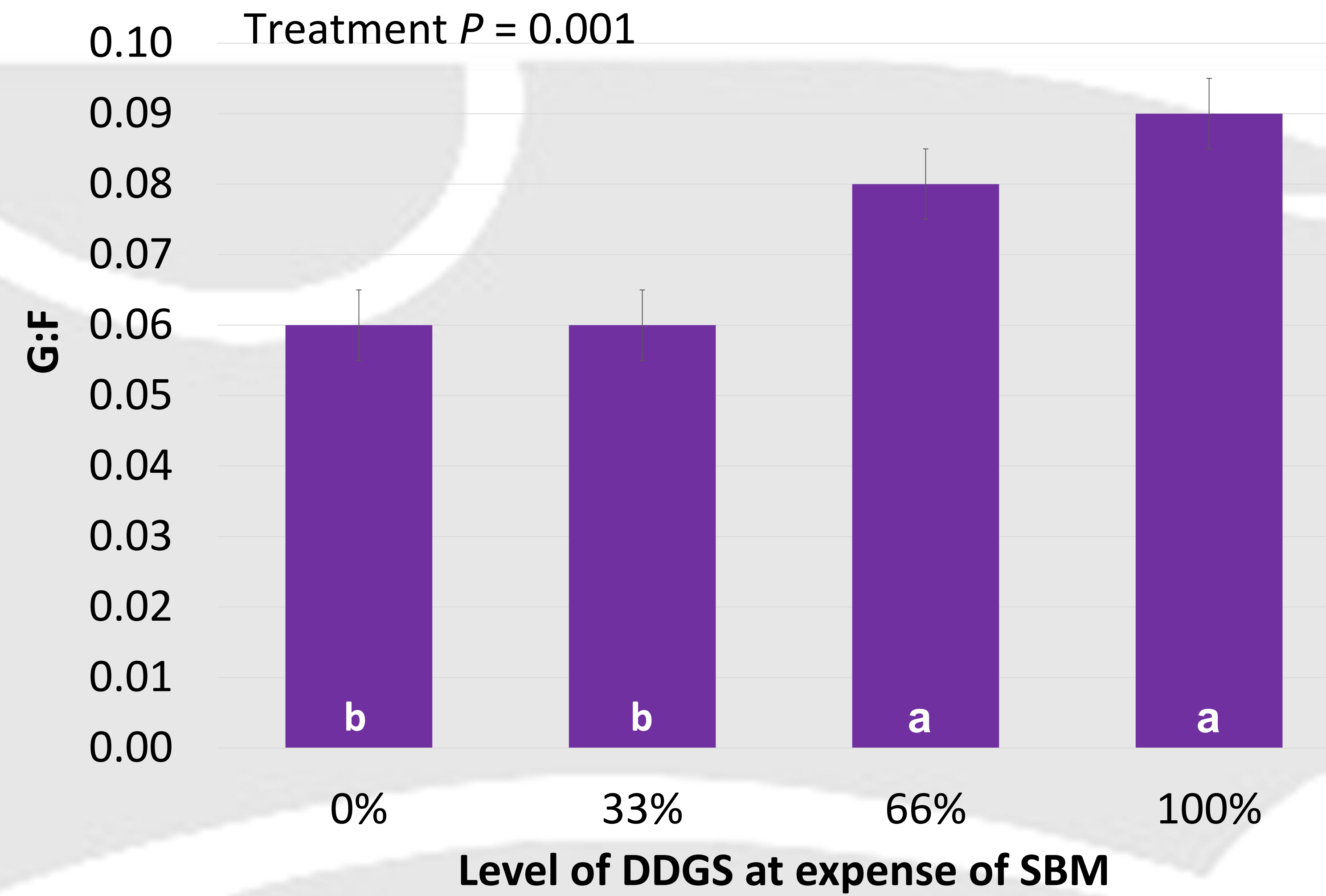
- 48 goats were split into pens and fed one of four treatment diets for 56 days. There were 4 pens assigned to each treatment, and each pen held 3 goats.
- The four treatments consisted of either 0%, 33%, 66%, or 100% of the SBM in the diet replaced with DDGS.
- The diets were pelleted and included roughage, so no supplemental forage was required.
- The goats also had ad libitum access to water, and were also given 140 mg/hd/d of thiamin to avoid potential polioencephalomalacia.
- The goats were weighed weekly, and average daily gain (ADG), average daily feed intake (ADFI), and feed efficiency (G:F) were calculated every 2 weeks.
- At the end of the experiment, 2 kids per pen were slaughtered, and hot carcass weight, yield, loin eye area, and fat depth at the 13th rib were measured.

Conclusions

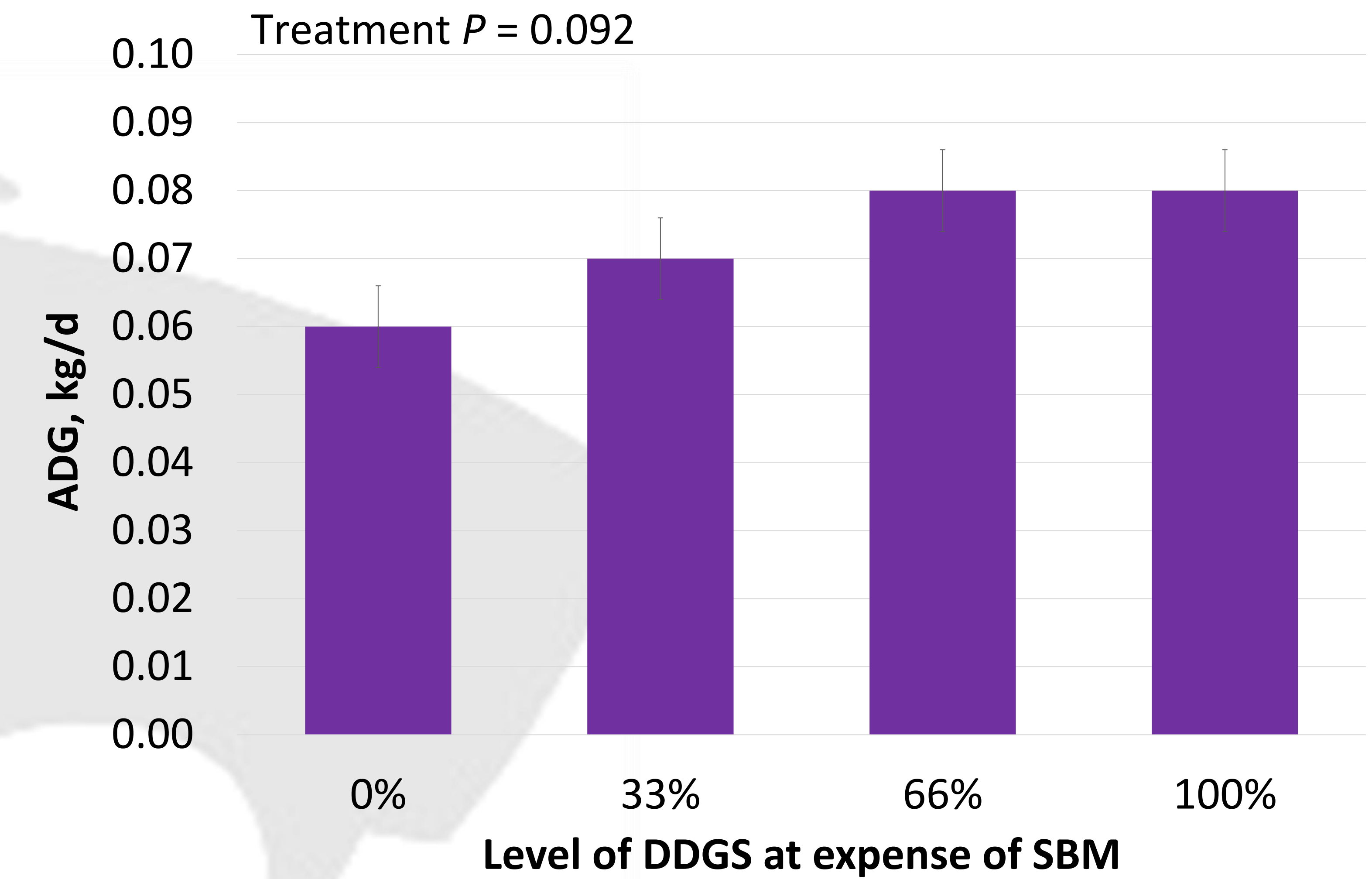
- There was no statistical difference between the goats fed the different diets in regards to all the data measured except G:F ratio, which was statistically significantly higher for the goats on treatment 4.
- Including DDGS in a goat diet will result in financial savings without having any detrimental effects on goat growth or production.
- More research is required to investigate whether or not DDGS may actually have positive impacts on goat growth.

Experimental Period Results

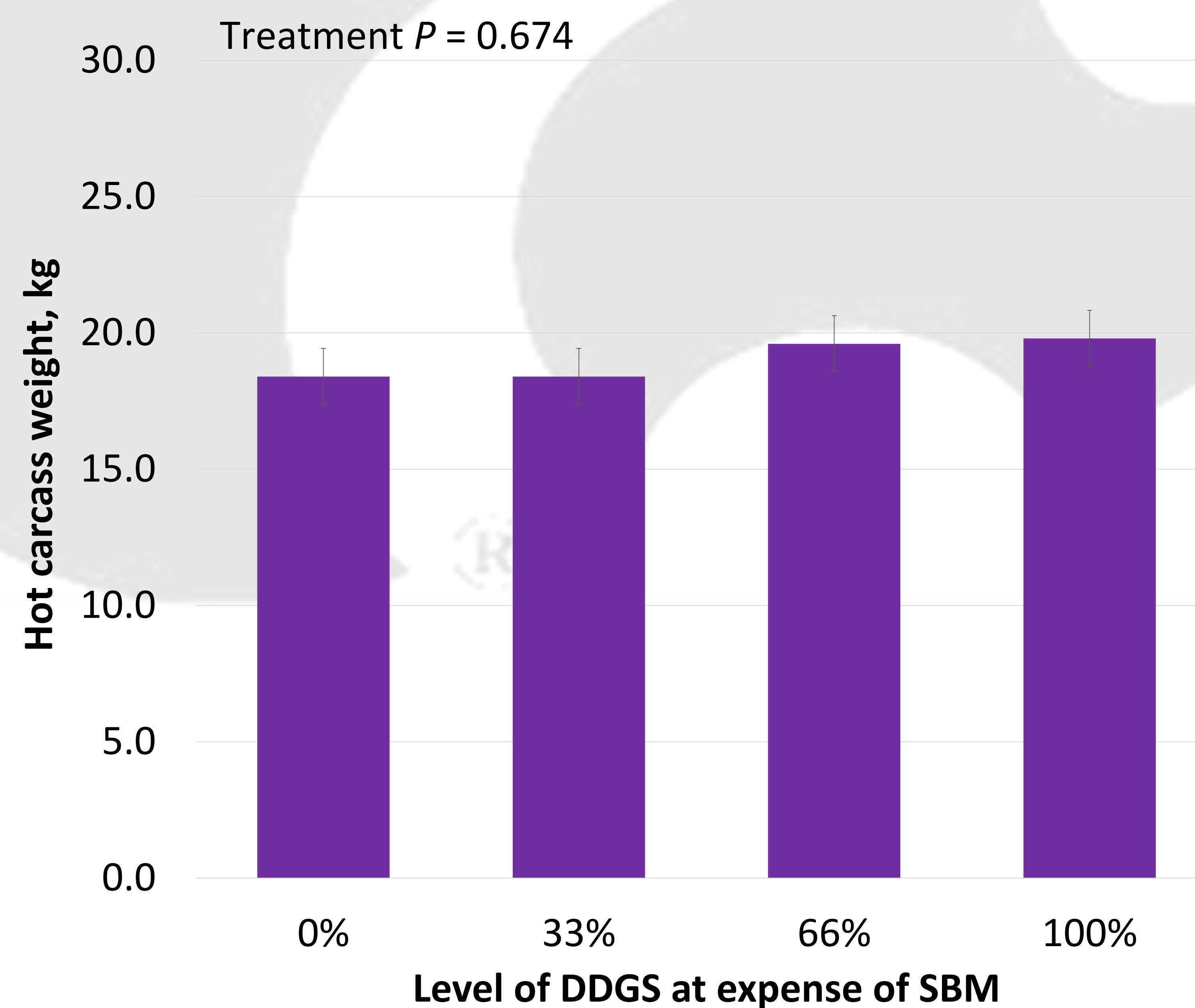
Gain:Feed Ratio



Average Daily Gain



Hot Carcass Weight



Carcass Yield

