

THE USE OF DATE BLOCKS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY FEEDING OF GROWING CAMELS

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The date production in arid countries like Saudi Arabia includes a part of discarded dates for human consumption. These discarded dates could be used as supplementary feeding for camel

Components of the date blocks

50% dates

5% cement

5% urea

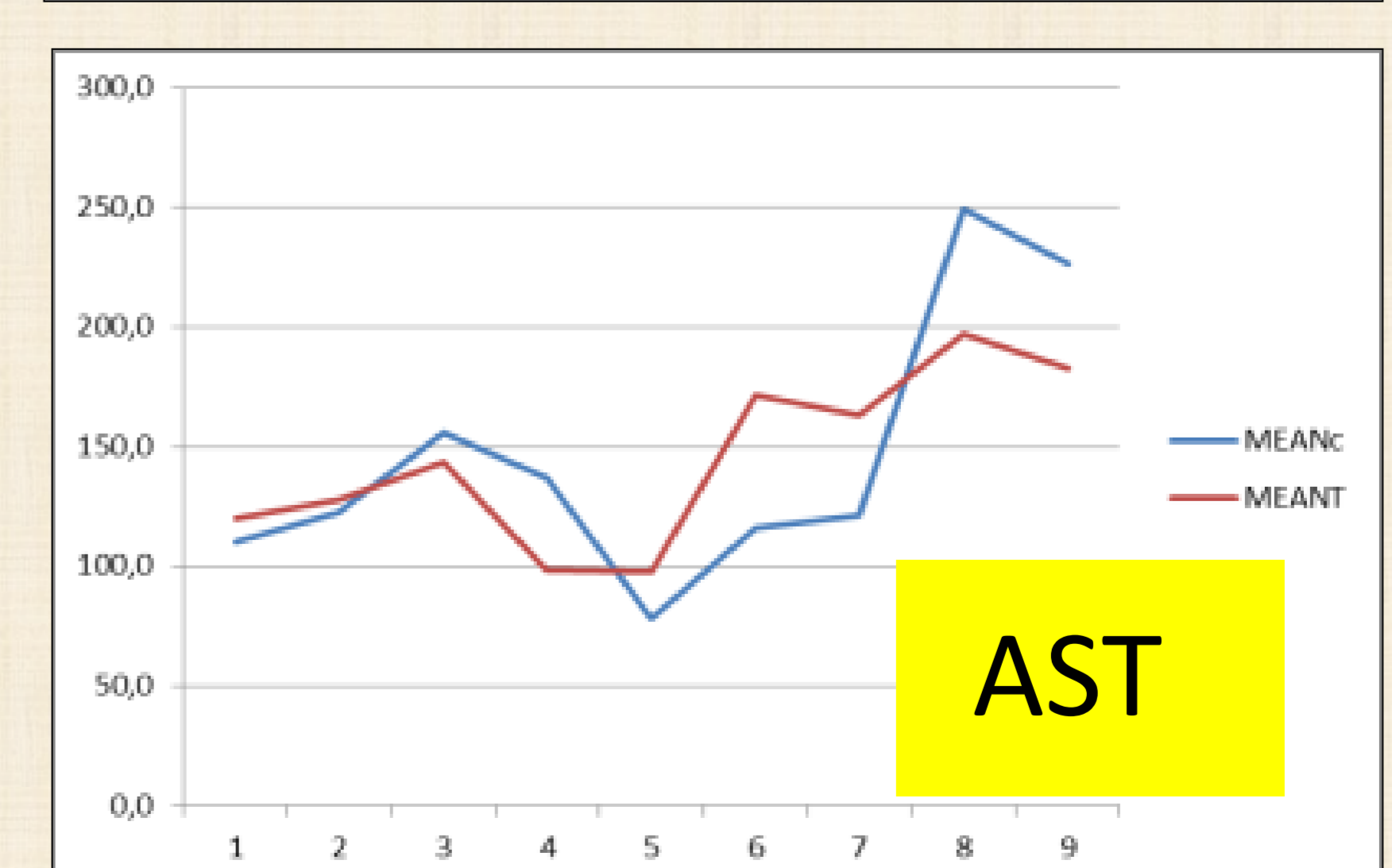
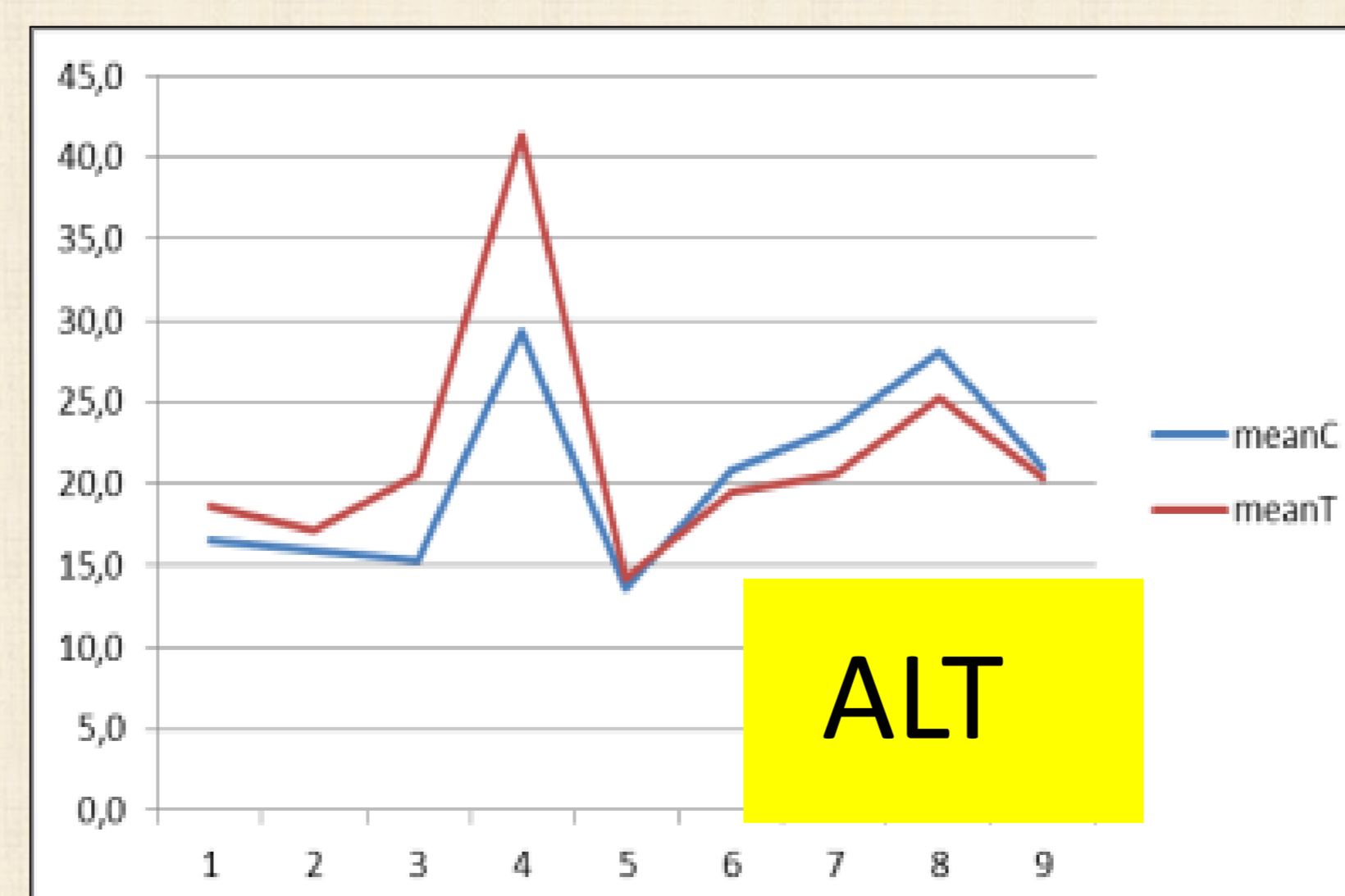
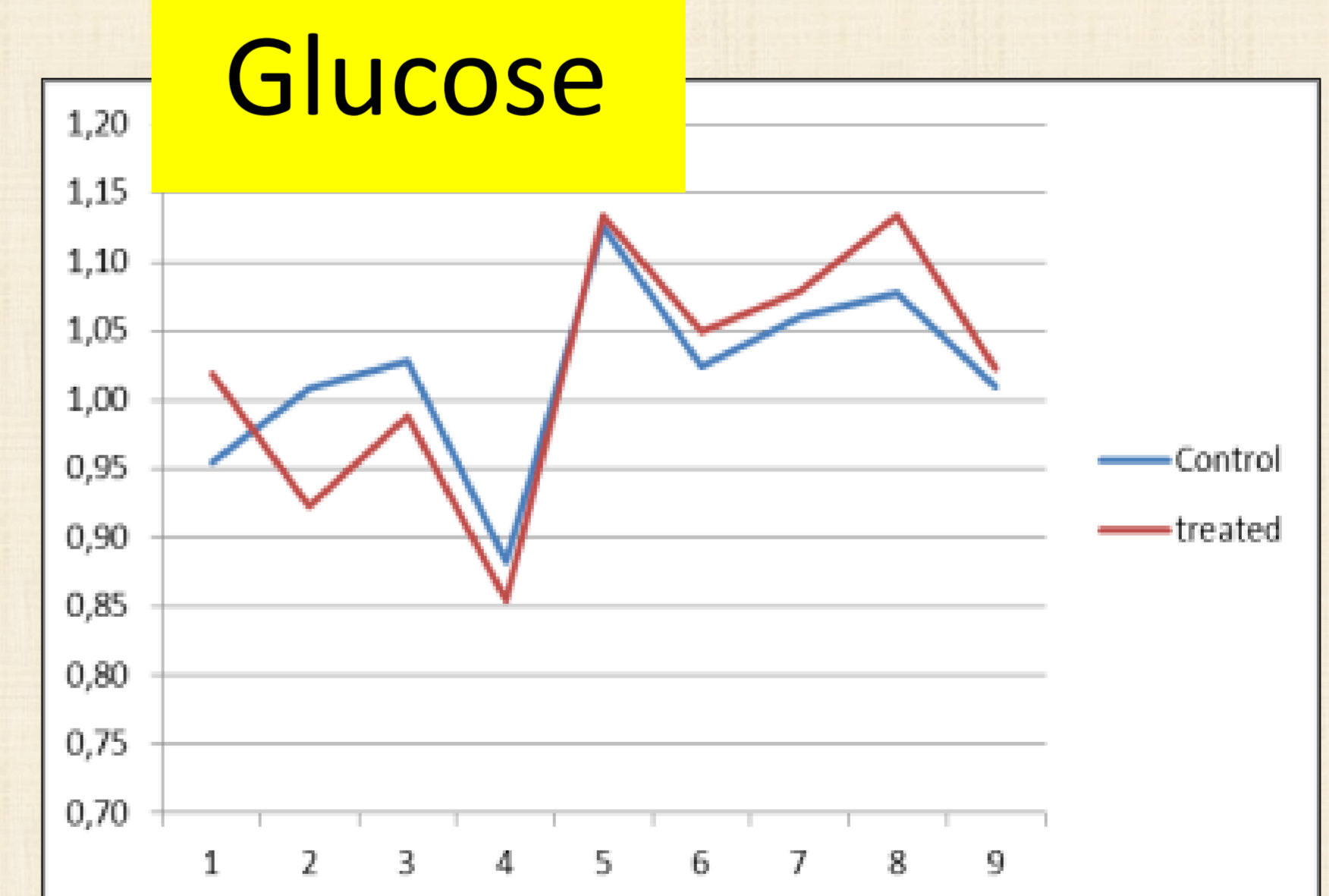
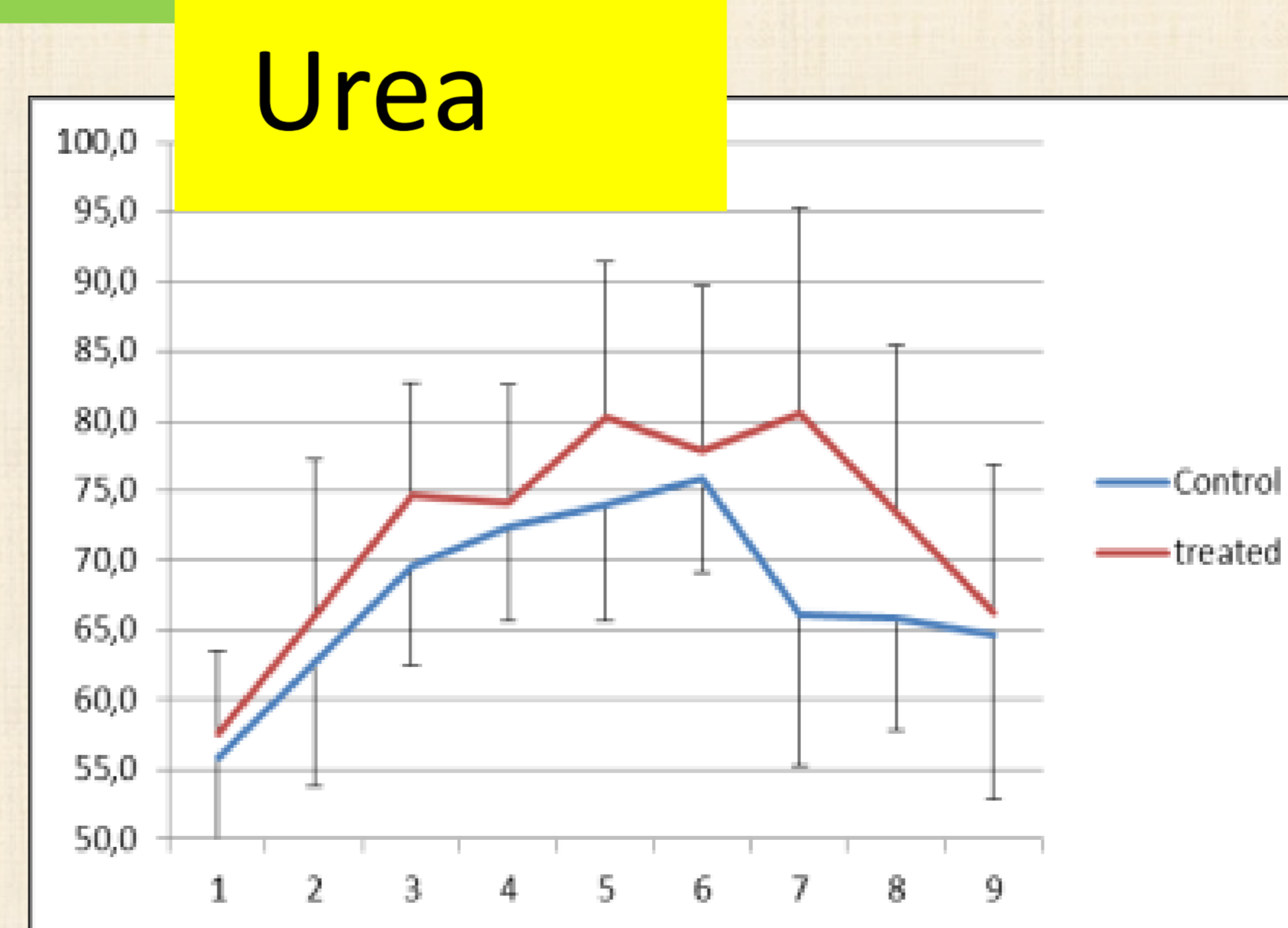
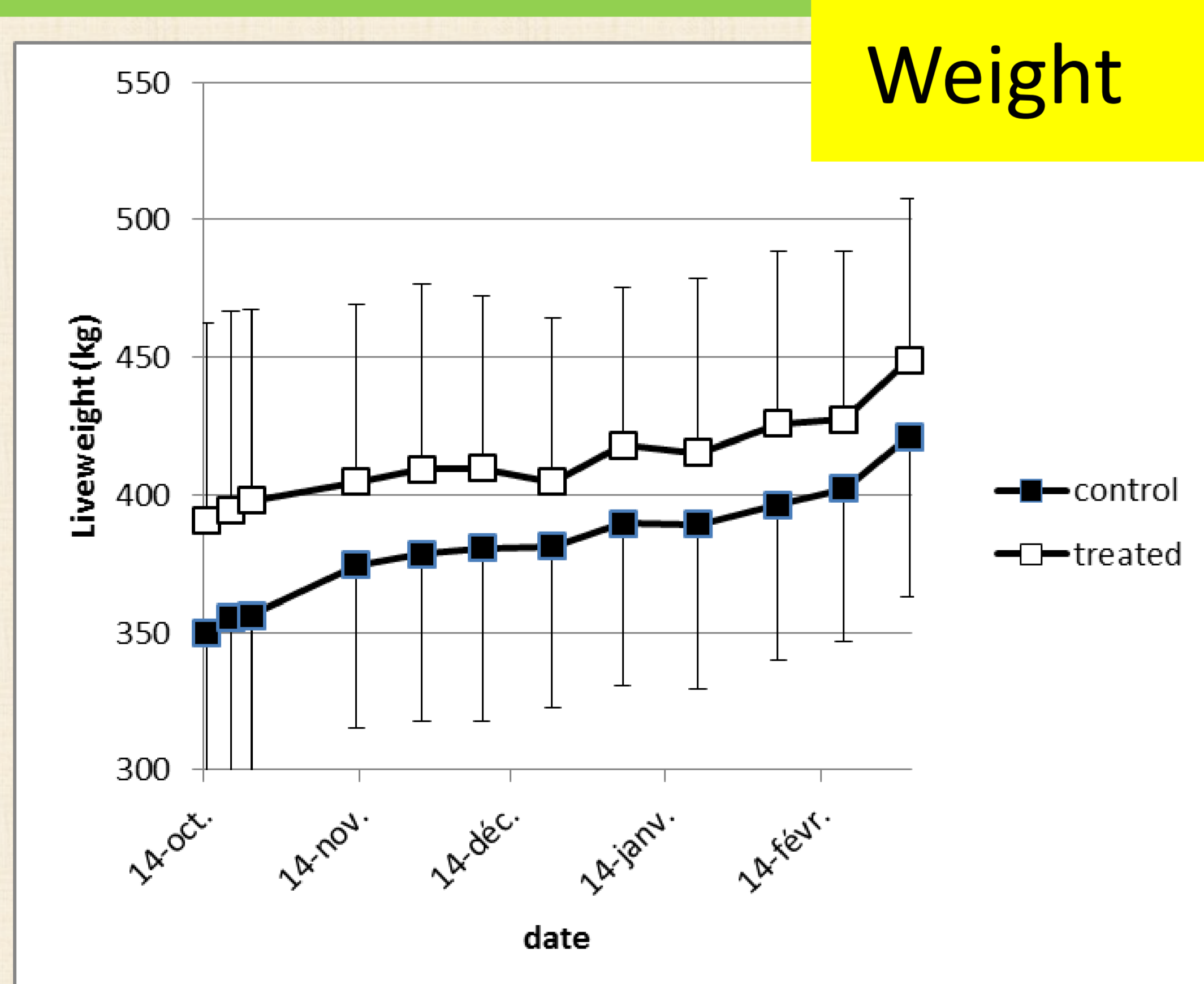
40% wheat bran

1 kg supplementation feed/day

Two groups of 7 camels each 2-3 y old:

- Control Group : basal diet composed of alfalfa (2kg/100kg LW) + 1 kg of. market concentrates
 - Treated group: same alfalfa + date blocks.
- Duration of the trial: 4 months.

- Blood sampling every 15 days
- Urea, glucose, AST , ALT and LDH
- Growth of camels monitored by regular weighing at sampling time in the morning before feed distribution.



- Intake: 1.94 ± 0.19 (Control) and 1.85 ± 0.19 kg/100kg LW (Treated)
- Mean daily weight gain 407 (Control) and 305g/day (Treated)
- Weight gain of 43 kg (control) and 32 kg (treated) for 4 months
- Consumption index: 2.33 (control) and 3.11 kg (treated) concentrates/kg weight gain,

No significant difference in the blood parameters.

Conclusion:

Date blocks could be safely used for supplementary feeding of young camels as partial substitution for the regular feed.