

Since body weight was not adversely affected by treatment with 2-bromo- α -ergocryptine, it is apparent that the method of this invention causes the animal to direct metabolic energy away from lipogenesis and towards protein formation.

slaughter and wherein said method additionally comprises:

- (a) maintaining said dosage for at least 14 days; and
(b) ceasing said dosage at least 5 days before slaughtering of said vertebrate animal.

TABLE

TREATMENT	N	BODY WT. (% INCR.)	INDICES OF BODY FAT STORES				LIVER WT. (g)
			EPIDIDYMAL FAT PAD		ABDOMINAL FAT PAD		
			(g)	(% B.W.)	(g)	(% B.W.)	
<u>Experiment 1 - (3-4 months of age)</u>							
Control	9	11.5 \pm 4.0	1.73 \pm 0.06	1.37 \pm 0.05	0.84 \pm 0.03	0.67 \pm 0.03	5.2 \pm 0.2
2-Bromo- α -ergocryptine (6.00 mg/kg/day)	10	16.3 \pm 2.4	1.17 \pm 0.07 ¹	0.93 \pm 0.05 ¹	0.43 \pm 0.02 ¹	0.38 \pm 0.01 ¹	5.3 \pm 0.3
<u>Experiment 2 - (7 months of age)</u>							
Control	8	3.3 \pm 0.9	1.35 \pm 0.07	1.10 \pm 0.05	0.96 \pm 0.08	0.77 \pm 0.06	4.9 \pm 0.5
2-Bromo- α -ergocryptine (6.00 mg/kg/day)	8	5.4 \pm 1.2	1.07 \pm 0.09 ²	0.76 \pm 0.04 ¹	0.72 \pm 0.07 ²	0.54 \pm 0.04 ¹	5.6 \pm 0.7
2-Bromo- α -ergocryptine (2.00 mg/kg/day)	7	3.0 \pm 1.1	1.08 \pm 0.05 ¹	0.90 \pm 0.05 ¹	0.75 \pm 0.08 ³	0.63 \pm 0.08 ³	5.0 \pm 0.3
2-Bromo- α -ergocryptine (.15 mg/kg/day)	8	1.6 \pm 1.2	0.91 \pm 0.06 ¹	0.86 \pm 0.05 ¹	0.60 \pm 0.04 ¹	0.56 \pm 0.04 ¹	4.5 \pm 0.2
TREATMENT	REPRODUCTIVE INDICES						
	FOOD CONSUMED (g/day/animal)	TESTES (g)	SEMINAL VESICLES (g)	ACCESSORY SEX ORGAN (g)			
<u>Experiment 1 - (3-4 months of age)</u>							
Control	8.8 \pm 0.2	4.0 \pm 0.1	1.62 \pm 0.08	0.98 \pm 0.10			
2-Bromo- α -ergocryptine (6.00 mg/kg/day)	8.8 \pm 0.2	3.9 \pm 0.1	1.68 \pm 0.10	0.90 \pm 0.10			
<u>Experiment 2 - (7 months of age)</u>							
Control	10.4 \pm 0.3	3.5 \pm 0.2	1.42 \pm 0.05	0.84 \pm 0.05			
2-Bromo- α -ergocryptine (6.00 mg/kg/day)	11.2 \pm 0.3	3.6 \pm 0.2	1.53 \pm 0.06	0.78 \pm 0.06			
2-Bromo- α -ergocryptine (2.00 mg/kg/day)	9.8 \pm 0.3	3.3 \pm 0.2	1.57 \pm 0.03	0.79 \pm 0.05			
2-Bromo- α -ergocryptine (.15 mg/kg/day)	9.2 \pm 0.5	3.3 \pm 0.1	1.40 \pm 0.07	0.76 \pm 0.06			

¹Significantly less than control (P less than 0.01)

²Significantly less than control (P less than 0.05)

³Not Significantly different from control

N Number of hamsters

We claim:

1. A method for treating a vertebrate animal to reduce its body fat stores without substantial concomitant loss in its body weight, which method comprises administering to a vertebrate animal in need of such treatment an effective dosage of an ergot-related prolactin-inhibiting compound.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said dosage is administered over a period of at least 14 days.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein said dosage is administered over a period of at least 24 days.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein said vertebrate animal in need is of a species which is for commercial

5. The method of claim 4 wherein said dosage is maintained for at least 24 days.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein said vertebrate animal in need is a swine or a ruminant, said ergot-related prolactin inhibiting compound is 2-bromo- α -ergocryptine and said dosage, on a daily basis, is within the range of from about 0.15 mg/kg body weight to about 6.0 mg/kg body weight.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein said ergot-related prolactin inhibiting compound is 2-bromo- α -ergocryptine or its salts formed from pharmaceutically acceptable acids.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein said dosage is administered over a period of at least 14 days.

* * * * *

55

60

65