

Types of land use in the montado (dehesa) production system

M. S. Pereira ¹, A. Quintas ², I. S. Coelho ² and C. C. Belo ¹

¹STPA Dept. EZN-INIAP, 2005-048 Vale de Santarém, Portugal. ²EESA Dept. EAN-INIAP, Quinta do Marqués, 2780 Oeiras, Portugal. stpa.ezn@mail.telepac.pt

Abstract

This study was based on data obtained from the General Census of Agriculture (RGA, 1999) regarding 932 farms from the Alentejo region (Portugal). Farms were classified by percentage of “montado” according to the land used for agricultural purposes (LUAP) (“montado” classes (MC): MCa 0-33%; MCb 33-66%; MCc 66-100%). There are three types of land use closely associated with the proportion of “montado” on farms. The increase from MCa to MCb resulted in decreases of 50% in the items referring to cleared land, while items referring to under-*Quercus* increased 200%. On the other hand, the increase from MCb to MCc resulted in greater decreases in items referring to cleared land (80%), while items referring to under-*Quercus* increased 50% for temporary crops, 132% for fallow land and 73% for permanent pastures. Forage production, animal types and stocking rate were also characterized.

Key words: stocking rate, silvopasture