

Authors have done a good job and the manuscript reads very well, and it can be recommended. I only have a few suggestions for improvement:

Line 91. Spell out AA at first mention

Line 94. I wouldn't define this as a "proportion", perhaps a ratio between flows (as per the next line)?

Lines 109-110. "can be recommended"

Line 123. "comprised" (past tense and without the "of")

Line 137. "Table 1" (without "the")

Line 161. Suggest "the residual of the model, defined as RFI"

Lines 178-181. Appreciate the explanation included, but perhaps it could be better placed following line 130?

Line 188. I think it should be  $^{15}\text{N}/^{14}\text{N}$ ?

Lines 188-189. Could the authors mean: "...Rstandard the N isotope ratio of the internationally defined standard...?"

Line 197. "No plasma samples were..."

Line 247. "was a late-maturing pure or cross-bred..."

Lines 257-260. It seems to me that X and its coefficient are missing in the equation?

Line 327. "observations"

Line 328. Could probably qualify for "very weak"

Line 329. I think the authors meant "Likewise, for  $\Delta^{15}\text{N}_{\text{animal-diet}, \dots}$ "

Line 374. Suggest "Furthermore," instead of "However,"

Lines 398-399. Add commas as follows: "FCE and, to a lesser extent, RFI variation"

Line 411. Add the ‰ symbol after 3.43

Lines 480-481. Suggest "diets with, for example, lower and higher CP content" (as the same concept could be applied to other nutrients or management strategies, as the authors explain in the following lines)

Line 504. Insert space between number and units

Lines 526-533. In this regard, have you attempted including the initial body mass (or even better, the average body mass in the experiment) as a co-variable, both as a pure effect and as its interaction with  $\Delta^{15}\text{N}_{\text{animal-diet}}$ ? One would think that in younger animals depositing more lean tissue NUE may have a higher correlation with FCE compared to older animals

Line 541. Do not understand to what the authors refer with “which”...does it mean that the relationship between ADG and FCE varies among studies?

Line 544. “...which was much higher”

Line 549. Superscript in R2

Line 567. “groups of animals” (plural)

Line 571. Insert comma after “values”

Line 577. “...the gain in prediction accuracy obtainable by combining them...”