Summary

In dry regions of Central America, the utilization of harvest residues (stubble) to feed animals is frequent. Between January and March 1990, in Juticalpa, Honduras, liveweight gain was measured for zebu steers, in grazing and in confinement, fed with stubble from maize grown alone and in association with the legume Lablab purpureus. Sixty days after the maize harvest, DM production was higher in the associated maize stubble (5.7 t/ha) than in the maize alone (3.4 t/ha). Animal liveweight gain, adjusted to six weeks, was highest when grazing associated stubble (1019 g/day), and the lowest when the maize stubble was given to the animals in confinement (548 g/day). The highest economic benefits occurred with the use of maize stubble associated with L. purpureus.