

Some factors affecting milk production and its components and some growth traits of local Awassi sheep

Authors:

Jayel Victor Elia

Institution:

Animal Production
Department, College of
Agricultural Engineering
Sciences, University of
Baghdad, Iraq.

Corresponding author:

Jayel Victor Elia

ABSTRACT:

The study was conducted on a sample of 60 local Awassi sheep and their 76 births in the first research station of the Animal Production Department, College of Agriculture, Muthanna University, Muthanna Governorate, Iraq for the period from 1.7.2016 to 1.6.2017 to study the effect of some factors affecting production milk components and a number of growth characteristics of local Awassi sheep. These factors were the age of the mother, the type of birth, the weight of the mother at birth, the sex of the baby and the month of birth in a number of productive characteristics (daily and total milk production and length of the milk season). The average milk production was 556.5 g for four months (September, October, November and December). The effect of maternal age was significant ($P<0.05$) in daily and total milk production. The sex of the lamb had a significant effect ($P<0.05$) in the production of daily and total milk, while the type and month of birth did not have a significant effect on the studied production traits. All studied traits were affected by maternal weight at birth ($P<0.05$). It is concluded from the research that most of the studied factors have an important effect on the performance of sheep, which requires a study and determination of their impact and attention to administrative aspects of the herd to raise the level of performance and maximize economic return.

Keywords:

Awassi sheep, Milk production, Growth traits.