

Influence of dairy production level on reproductive activity induced by the male effect in Sarda sheep breed

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1. Introduction

Lactation requires much energy from the organism and this metabolic effort can affect the other physiological functions such as reproduction.

2. Message

The aim of this research was to evaluate the influence of production level on reproductive activity induced by the male effect in Sarda sheep breed.



3. Methods

120 pluriparous ewes, with a mean age of 4.2 ± 2 years, lambing in November, were utilized. Milk production of each ewe was registered monthly. On the basis of dairy production level, animal were separated in three groups, each one made up of 40 ewes. Group A, low production (<600 g/day); Group B, intermediate production (600-1000 g/day); Group C, high production (>1000 g/day). From May 1st, the day rams were joined with the flock, to June 30th, blood samples were collected fortnightly to obtain progesterone level. Data were submitted to chi-square test.

4. Results

Thirty days after the males joining, Group A showed more ewes in sexual activity (70%) than Group B (45%) and Group C (25%), with statistical difference among groups ($P < 0,001$). At the end of the trial there was no difference regarding animal in sexual activity, between Group B (70%) and Group C (68%), while these two groups differed ($P < 0,01$) from Group A (90%).



Table 1 – Ewes pregnant in the groups with different level of dairy production

	Animal pregnant at May 30 th			Animal pregnant at June 30 th		
	Group A	Group B	Group C	Group A	Group B	Group C
Animal (n.)	28 ^B	18 ^A	10 ^A	36 ^B	28 ^A	27 ^A

A, B = $P < 0,01$

5. Conclusions

Results pointed out that milk productive level strongly affects reproductive activity.