

B-82 :SOME FACTORS INFLUENCING THE BIRTH WEIGHT OF GOATS

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A study was carried out to assess the effects of breed type, sex, season of kidding on the birth weights of goats. Data of 2644 birth records from eight different goat types maintained at Kottukachchiya State Farm from 1983 to 1990 constituted the material for this study. The goat types used were 100% Boer, 87.5% Boer, 75% Boer, 50% Boer, 50% Boer *inter se*, Jamnapari, Kottukachchiya and Jamnapari x Kottukachchiya.

The mean birth weights recorded for 100% Boer, 87.5% Boer, 75% Boer, 50% Boer, 50% Boer *inter se*, Jamnapari, Kottukachchiya and Jamnapari x Kottukachchiya were 3.03 ± 0.64 , 3.11 ± 0.63 , 2.82 ± 0.56 , 2.69 ± 0.59 , 2.76 ± 0.52 , 2.76 ± 0.51 , 2.23 ± 0.55 , 2.27 ± 0.46 kg, respectively. The Boer breed had the highest birth weight and the birth weight of Jamnapari was higher than that of Kottukachchiya. Male and Female kids registered mean birth weights of 2.80 ± 0.57 and 2.62 ± 0.58 kg respectively. No significant differences were observed in mean birth weights during various months.

From the results it is clear that the cross between Kottukachchiya and Jamnapari or Boer breeds and cross of Jamnapari with Boer lead to higher birth weight and mature body weight. The cross of Kottukachchiya with Jamnapari can overcome the poor growth performance of Kottukachchiya breed as well as the problems of disease susceptibility of Jamnapari.