

B-07: A preliminary study on growth rates of halfbred Sannen goats

Asoka Gunawardena, K M Mewan
(Dept of Animal Science, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna,
Mapalana, Kamburupitiya)

Sannen has been frequently used to increase the milk production capacity of local goats. However, records on their performance are scanty. The growth rates of goats have a marked effect on milk production of crossbred animals. Therefore, studies on such traits are essential to monitoring breeding practices. This study aims at investigating growth performances of half bred Sannen goats under an intensive management system.

Fifty-one animals of half-bred Sannen (non-descriptive x Sannen) were selected for the study. Birth weights were recorded within the 1st 24h after birth and the subsequent body weights were taken at 3 months interval. Data on litter size, sex and parity were recorded from the second parity and analysed using simple statistical methods.

Average birth weight of the kids was 2.80 ± 0.60 kg. Average weight after 3, 6, 9 and 12 months of birth were 9.91 ± 2.18 kg, 12.65 ± 2.67 kg, 16.48 ± 2.98 kg and 19.45 ± 3.31 kg respectively. Average weight gain was 46.17 ± 7.70 g/day and the maximum growth rate (81.31 ± 19.20 g/day) was observed during the first 3 months after birth. The litter size was 1.82 ± 0.62 demonstrating a significant difference between parity ($p < 0.05$).

Birth weight and the body weights of the animals are positively correlated and sex of the animals affects these traits.