

Factors affecting kid mortality in goats under extensive management system in Dry Zone of Sri Lanka

Hambanthota is a well-known area with traditional agriculture, where cattle and buffaloes are the major component in livestock farming. With the expansion of agricultural activities and human settlements, traditional grazing lands are decreasing. As a result, large ruminants are replaced by goats and it has become popular among the farmers in the area. Kid mortality is a key factor that limits the expansion of the goat industry in this area.

The objective of the present study was to find out the factors affecting kid mortality in goats under extensive management system in Dry Zone of Sri Lanka. Data on births, deaths, birth weights, litter size causes for deaths and climatic parameters were recorded for 20 goat farmers from 1993 - 1995.

The highest (66%) mortality was in the birth weight group of <1 kg and lowest (16%) was for the kids above 2 kg and 1.5-2 kg group. The mortality was 34% from the 1-1.5 kg

group. The deaths during the first month of age was the highest (63%) while 34% and 3% deaths were found among the age groups of 31-60 and 61-90 days> Mortality rates of 25%, 40% and 44% were found among the kids born as singles, twins and triplets respectively.

The highest (52%) mortality occurred during fourth quarter (October-December) of the year and death rate of 12% was observed during second and third quarters. Thirty eight percent (38%) deaths were due to weakness at birth and reasons for the 25% of deaths were unidentified. The deaths due to pneumonia, trampling, diarrhea and predation were 13%, 11% 6% and 7% respectively. The overall mortality rate during the study period was 31.18%.