RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN AGE OF SHEEP AND QUANTITY OF MILK

RELAȚIA ÎNTRE VÂRSTA OVINELOR ŞI CANTITATEA DE LAPTE

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Abstract: *Age condition the production of milk so it rises to the fourth lactation, holds in the plate one or two lactations and then decreases progressively. A particular difference is noted to the primiparous, regardless of race, due the competition between milk production and incomplete growth process, on witch the top of lactation curve is a little late than in adults, given that the breast tissue, secretor, is less developed in early lactation.*

Key words: *sheep, age, milk, correlation coefficient*

INTRODUCTION

Sheep milk production is influenced by genetic and environmental factors, with some features that can and should be exploited by applying the most effective technologies, increasing the lactate capacity of sheep. Among these factors are: race, individuality, age, season of calving, lactation number, prolificacy, skill, lamb ability consumption, body weight, weaning system, lactation, age of first calving, number and interval between milking duration milking, milking system, the food, possibly administration of stimulators [2,4,6].

Race condition in greater measure, the amount of milk, so from this point of view sheep breeds can be divided into three groups [1,3,7]:

1) with high yield, over 250 liters of milk per lactation: Frieze, Lacaune, Awassi;

2) the production medium of 100-200 liters of milk per lactation, mixed sheep breeds such as: Tigaie, Spanca, Țurcana, Sarda;

3) with lower production, less than 100 liters per lactation, which includes: Merinosul, Karakul.

Individuality offers in each race, regardless of this degree of improvement, a very large variability in this regard. This variation subject to a rigorous control based on the most effective methods, such as the coefficient of the bimonthly survey and weight of lambs at the age of three weeks, creates the possibility of identifying and separating all plus variants, in order to form the cores with higher production of milk, even from the first two to three years from this action start [6,7]. This would help reduce losses of lambs in the first weeks after birth and increase their growth and development, while increasing prolificacy, whether they come from single or twin births [5].

Doubling the milk production represents tripling the daily weight gain of lamb, equally reducing the duration of growth and fattening and specific consumption per unit of product.

MATERIAL AND METHOD

This scientific approach we have developed from research documentation regarding how the quantity of milk produced is influenced by age of the animals operated in different systems, aimed to finding correlation coefficients for calculating the production of sheep milk by age.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The relationship between age and amount of milk sheep is so important that it claimed to establish correction factors based on which you can find milk production throughout the life of animals. For this purpose, the quantity of milk obtained, for example from a sheep of five years in control year, was 86 liters; the amount is multiplied by the coefficient 0.918 or 1.000 and we find the approximately production of 78.95 or 86,00 liters as it is shown by the dates presented in Table 1, Table has been adapted by various researchers [1.7].

In situation in witch the calving season is between Decembers to January, as noted Tafta V., lactation period is greater, including milk production with 30% because sheep can capitalize also the vegetation during the spring conclusion reached by Padeanu I.

Table 1

Correction coefficient for calculating the age sheep by milk production

Lactation	Age (years)	Correction coefficients
I	2	1,264 - 1,449
II	3	1,091 - 1,145
III	4	0,961 - 1,130
IV	5	0,918 - 1,000
V	6	0,906 - 1,152
VI	7	0,887 - 1,182
VII	8	1,000 - 1,489

From here results the fact the calving season and milk production are subject to the conditions of food and climatic factors. Due to these correlations, recently, scientists believe that the mount must be installed in contra season, due to the given possibilities of transformation (especially on genetically way) to the annual seasonal policiclicity [2,3,7].

Season of calving affects milk production, due the fact that the late calving (April-May) lead to shorter lactation, resulting lambs will enter in winter developed and prepared, because they do not have the sorts of vegetation in summer, after the Romanian researchers noted as well as those abroad.

Number of lactations is a positive impact on total milk production throughout the life of the animal [6,7].

Table 2

Milk production in Sarda breed according to lactations number

Type of birth Specification		Lactations number							
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Precocious	Milk (I)	122	179	205	215	216	224	229	204
	% towards I. lactation	100	147	168	276	177	183	187	164
	Age (months	14,3	25,1	36,1	48,2	8,2	72,1	83,3	95,2
	No. individuals	832	727	593	462	462	306	257	213

Late	Milk (I)	145	183	215	223	227	216	199	181
	% towards I. lactation	100	126	148	154	156	149	147	125
	Age (months	22,2	32,3	4,2	55,3	67,2	80,1	93,2	106,1
	No. individuals	295	258	208	172	142	112	76	58

Source: *J. Boyazoglu, cited by V. Tafta, 1997*

CONCLUSIONS

On synthesis based on results from documentary studies show that earlier calving took place at the age of 14.3 months, and the latest one on age of 22.2 months in first lactation. From milk production on first lactation on sheep with early calving the quantities were small to lactation-6, compared with late calving.

Milk production increases progressively from the first group to the 7-lactation, and in the second to 5th lactation after which it decreases gradually until the last lactation.

Quantity of milk decreases with age and number of animals, which shows that not all sheep are fit for a large number of lactations, result found by most researchers.

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