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STUDIES ON FACTORS AFFECTING ABSORPTION OF COLOSTRAL IMMUNOGLOBULINS IN NEWBORN LAMBS

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ABTRACT

Experimental studies were conducted on factors affecting absorption of immunoglobulins from colostrum by new born lambs. New born Odua and Balami lambs were either allowed to suckle or were removed from their dams before sucking and bottle fed pooled ewe to colostrum. The feeding of milk substitute before colostrums resulted in a significant ($P<0.5$) lowering of serum immunoglobulin concentrations. The feeding of colostrums in fractions also resulted in a significant ($P<0.001$) lowering of serum concentrations. Serum immunoglobulin concentrations were related to the quantity of colostrum fed. While lambs fed only milk substitute attained very low concentrations ($P<0.001$) those fed a large dose of colostrums attained significantly higher ($P<0.001$) concentration to compare to controls. There was no significantly ($P>0.1$) difference between the concentration in control lambs left with their dams after feeding of colostrums for “mothering” and in those separated from their dams after feeding of colostrums.

Keyword