RANGE UTILIZATION AND MANAGEMENT OF SHEEP AND GOATS UNDER DIFFERENT PRODUCTION SYSTEMS IN KAINJI LAKE AREA OF NIGERIA.

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Abstract

Range utilization and management of by sheep and goats under the extensive, semi - extensive and intensive management or husbandry practices in Kainji Lake Area of Nigeria were investigated. Animals are largely maintained under extensive traditional system h no capital input. Sheep and goats are kept in association with other livestock (local fowls, guinea fowls and ducks), which require s space and shelter and, small qualities of food. Birth weight is linearly related to the year of birth, season of the year, parturition number, sex, litter size, and order of birth of kids/lambs and survival rate. Thus, kids/lambs of low birth weight need intensive care since their weight development is also dependent on their dams mothering ability especially in the first 6 weeks of life. Incidence of multiple births were common in does than ewes, sex distribution among kid/lambs was higher for males than females at about an approximate io of 2 to 1 flocks as they have potential for ram/buck pilot fattening schemes. The animals were kept mainly for breeding. In the 3ep, except for body weight at first lambing and litter size at parturition, values of for reproductive performance differed significantly ($P < 0.05$) between the households, which were influence mainly by the owners' management practices. In goats, except for age at first ding, values for reproductive performance indicators differed significantly ($P < 0.05$) between households, mainly by differences in the types of browse plants disposed to the individual owners. Thus, the animals possess some potential for increased performance. This can be achieved by the supply of adequate feeding and health care throughout the year.

Keywords: Range utilization, management, sheep and goats production systems.