

RESEARCH PAPER

Feeding practices at commercial goat farming and its effect on growth of kids in Parbhani

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ABSTRACT

Five goat farms having different feeding management practices and situated near by Parbhani city were selected for study. On each goat farm, twelve kids of weaning age were selected to study the effect of feeding practises on the growth of kids. Grazing for varying time period from 5 to 8 hours and supplementary feeding of green fodder (tree leaves) to the kids were the common practices followed at all goat farms. Feeding of lucerne and chaffed maize was practiced on goat farm F₂ and F₃. Concentrate feeding of cotton seed cake was practiced on goat farms F₁ and F₂ at the rate of 90 gm/kid/day and 100gm/kid/day, respectively. Goat farms F₃ and F₅ were following the practice of feeding home made concentrate @ of 200g/kid/day having 15.72 and 14.52 per cent crud protein, respectively. While on farm F₄ no supplementary feeding of concentrate was followed. The total body weight gain (kg) and daily body weight gain (gm/day) were recorded significantly higher in kids maintained at farm F₃ than farms F₁, F₂, F₄ and F₅. It is concluded than kids, offered supplementary concentrate feeding along with grazing grew faster than kids reared on only grazing.

Key words : Feeding practices, Kids, Commercial goat farm and growth performance

In India the rate of increase in goat numbers is much higher (*i.e.* 1.7025 million per annum) than cattle, buffalo or sheep (Chandra, 2002). India's export is 1.3 million tones of goat meat in 1995-96. However, the average meat yield from a goat in India is only 10 kg as against about 20 kg in Sri Lanka and Pakistan mainly because of under feeding and faulty management (Singhal, 1999). Maharashtra has goat population of 91.95 lakh, out of each 4.15 per cent goats are contributed by Parbhani district *i.e.* 3.82 lakh. (Anonymous, 1992)

Now-a-days in Maharashtra state, commercial goat farming is mostly adopted as economical business as there is growing demand for goat meat in local market..

As the profitability of goat farming business lies in nutritive and economical feeding of kids, hence it is necessary to study the feeding management practices followed at commercial goat farms and its effect on growth of kids and finally economics of farm. This experiment was undertaken to put-forth the facts and constraints of goat farmers in Parbhani area and to identify important aspects of goat rearing and production with reference to their feeding and management practices.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Five commercial goat farms nearer to Parbhani town were selected for the present study. On each, twelve kids of weaning age (about 2.5-3 months age) were selected

for the study (Table1).

Systems of feeding and management practices followed at each farm have been recorded and studied including grazing hours, supplementary feeding of green/dry/ concentrates to the experimental kids.

During the experiment period of 90 days (25 Nov.2001 to 25 Feb.2002) the growth of kids in respects of body weight, length and chest girth were recorded weekly. Data obtained were analyzed statistically in CRD (Steel and Torrie, 1980).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

All the goat farms were following practice of grazing, but for varying time period. The short time grazing of 5-6 hours was followed at farms F₃ and F₅ and on remaining goat farms grazing for 7-8 hour was followed (Table2).

Supplementary feeding of green fodder to the kids was the common practice on each goat farm. The feeding of tree leaves such as ber, babul, subabul, shevari, which were brought from fields and fed in the stall in evening or morning, this practice, was followed by F₁, F₄ and F₅ farms. On the remaining two goat farms, the feeding of lucerne and chaffed maize which were cultivated by farm owners themselves, was practiced along with tree leaves feeding (Table 2).

Out of five, four goat farmers were adopting the practice of concentrate feeding to the kids. Cotton seed