

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Growth and productive performance of goat maintained in Arvi Tahsil of Wardha district

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ABSTRACT : The present investigation was undertaken to study the growth and productive performance of goats. A survey was carried out by selection of 120 goat keepers from ten villages of Arvi Tahsil of Wardha district. Goat keepers were categorized on the basis of flock size. Total 459 male and 1041 female goats were selected randomly from 795 male and 1387 female goats of different groups. It was found that average body weight (kg), body length (cm), chest girth (cm) and height (cm) were 44.80 ± 0.30 , 73.12 ± 0.10 , 74.76 ± 0.08 , and 75.07 ± 0.12 in male goats and 34.12 ± 0.29 , 71.04 ± 0.20 , 73.90 ± 0.20 and 74.04 ± 0.20 in female goats, respectively. Average age at puberty, age at first kidding, kidding interval were 11.07 ± 0.02 , 17.94 ± 0.06 and 9.13 ± 0.12 months, respectively. Single and twin percentage was 55.28 and 43.70, respectively. The average daily milk yield was 0.491 ± 0.06 kg/day/animal.

Key words : Goat, Goat keepers, Flock, Growth, Productivity

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INTRODUCTION

Goats are numerically important and contribute significantly to food, fibre, skin and manure, also provision of rural employment especially in ecologically difficult areas. Goats contribute to the subsistence of small holders and landless rural poor. There is much less risk in goat farming especially in drought prone areas where large mortality occurs due to frequent droughts because of their higher prolificacy and capacity to recover flock size. There are much less housing requirements and management problems with goats. Women and children essentially look after herding, feeding and health care of goats. The involvement of women increases as the farm size increases and the men are forced to seek off farm employment. In order to acknowledge the value of this small ruminant, this is generally called as pleasant animal and poor man's cow. Goats population of India was 128 millions and 10684 thousand of Maharastra State (FAO, 2005)

It is estimated that in the world there are about 102 descript breeds and types of goats and 95 per cent of them are in developing countries, India having 20, Pakistan 25 and China 25 breeds of goats. The total livestock population existing in Arvi Tahsil is 81361 comprising

56875 buffalo and cattle class, 361 sheep and 21704 goats, and 14000 poultry birds. Majority of cattle, buffaloes and goats are of non-descript type. Main purpose of livestock is to meet the farm power, milk, meat and manure (Source: District Statistical report 2007).

RESEARCH METHODS

Section of villages :

From Arvi Tahsil, ten villages were selected randomly from different parts of Tahsil. The randomly selected villages included Dhamode, Nadpur, Vadona, Ahirvada, Sawdapur, Boargaon, Daurwada, Vatoda, Phubgaon and Sherpur (Boke).

Selection of goat keepers :

The goat keepers were divided into four categories on the basis of flock size viz., very small (upto 10), small (upto 25 goats), medium (upto 50 goats) and large (above 50 goats). Three goat keepers were selected from each category. Thus, 12 goat keepers were selected from each village there by collection of data was done from 120 goat keepers of ten villages.