

Reproductive Management of Does: The Effect of Postpartum Exposure to the Breeding Buck on Returns to Oestrus

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[Abstract]

The very large gap between goat meat importation and production is a trend (4.38m kg vs 0.6m kg), which has not changed much since 1995. One means of reducing this deficit is to increase local production by improved reproductive management of the doe.

This paper examines the influence of the doe in affecting postpartum anoestrus in the doe and therefore increasing the chances of higher kidding frequencies. Does kidding in September 2000 and January 2001 were used in the study and exposed to the buck at intervals of 45,60,75 and 90 days postpartum.

Preliminary results show a trend for the September does to respond at earlier exposure intervals (mean of 8.2 days, S.E. 1.80) than the does kidding in January (mean of 30.6 days, S.E. 3.55). Studies to examine the effect of these variables viz. season, breed and parity and nutrition will be done.