

Incidence of mastitis and its effect on the productive performances in Rasa Aragonesa ewes

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Rasa Aragonesa is an autochthonous breed of sheep oriented exclusively to meat production, reared in semi-extensive conditions in a 3 lambing/2 years reproductive system. In a first work, the incidence of mastitis has been checked in 106 ewes from 11 flocks. The presence of subclinical mastitis (positives to California Mastitis Test – CMT), lost udder and clinical mastitis (diagnosed by palpation) has been detected in 40.0%; 8.6% and 7.5% ewes, respectively. Bacteriological analysis detected the presence of intra-mammmary infection in 44% of the checked ewes with high differences between flocks (from 10% to 70%). In a second work, the number of lambs born and their growth rate have been recorded in 62 ewes showing mastitis, (either positive at CMT or presenting pathological damages in the udder at clinical exploration), comparing with 130 apparently healthy ewes from the same flocks. Affected ewes presented a higher perinatal mortality (14.1 vs. 7.06%) and lower growth rate between birth and weaning at 45 days (-17.1%)