

GENETIC AND PHENOTYPIC PARAMETERS OF SOME ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS IN AWASSI SHEEP OF IRAQ: A REVIEW

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SUMMARY

The Awassi is the main indigenous breed of sheep in Iraq. The breed is raised primarily for lamb and mutton production. For genetic improvement in lamb breeding enterprises, the most important traits will include those associated with reproduction and wool production of the ewe, and the survival, growth and carcass characteristics of the lamb.

This paper reviews the available work encountering the genetic and phenotypic parameters (heritability, repeatability, genetic and phenotypic correlations) for various economic traits required for developing and formulating breeding plans to improve Awassi sheep in Iraq.

Ke words: Genetic parameters, Awassi sheep