

EFFECT OF DOCKING ON GROWTH RATE AND CARCASS CHARACTERISTICS OF LIBYAN BARBARY SHEEP

AHTASH, A.; MAGID, A. KHALIFA, S. AND EL AMIR, A.

*Department of Animal Production, Faculty of Agriculture,
Elfateh University, Lebia*

SUMMARY

Libyan Barbary sheep characterized by medium body size, cylindrical shape with strait back sliding at the end of rump, since this breed was considered as fat-tailed breeds that scattered in Middle East, Far East and North Africa. The growth rate of 106 Barbary lambs were studied, the animals were divided randomly into two groups, control group with 47 lambs(22 +25) and the docked group of 59 lambs (29 + 30). Docking of tail start at first week of lambing by using rubber ring . The objectives were to study the effect of docking on growth rate and carcass characteristics of Libyan Barbary sheep.

The results showed that the high percentage of docked tail was found on fourth day of using rubber ring (67%). The mean birth weight, weaning weight, average daily gain before weaning and the weight at age of 8 month of docked lambs were 3.27 kg, 25.34 kg , 0.166 kg and 30.07 kg , respectively. Docking of tail did not significantly affect monthly weight before weaning, weaning weight, average daily gain before weaning and the weight at 8 month of age. However, sex of animal and type of birth were significantly affecting all growth rate studied. A docked ram and ewe lamb gives high dressing percentage (44.3%, 46.7%) than control. The weight of front and rear half of the carcass of docked ram lambs less than the control group, but was higher than docked ewe lambs.

Keywords: *Libyan Barbary sheep, docking, growth, carcass.*