

SERUM IMMUNOGLOBULIN CONCENTRATIONS IN WEST AFRICAN DWARF LAMBS

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ABSTRACT

Studies were conducted into serum immunoglobulin concentrations in suckled neonatal West African Dwarf lambs. The concentrations reached a peak by the second to third day after birth and progressively fell thereafter. By 28 days after birth, the peak value had declined by 47.0 per cent, of the lambs blood sampled at 48 hours after birth; the mean immunoglobulin concentration in male lambs and female lambs did not significantly ($P > 0.05$) differ. Triplets had significantly ($P < 0.05$) lower concentration compared to either single lambs or twins. Lambs with very low birth weights ($< 1.0\text{kg}$) had significantly ($P < 0.05$) lower concentrations than heavier lambs. The mean concentration in lambs which subsequently died from infectious disease was significantly ($P < 0.01$) lower than in survived lambs.

Keyword