

YIELD AND IMMUNOGLOBULIN CONCENTRATION OF COLOSTRUM OF OUDA EWES DURING THE FIRST FOUR DAYS AFTER PARTURITION

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ABSTRACT

Mean volumetric yields of 238ml, 603ml, 582ml and 678ml of colostrum were obtained from Ouda ewes during the first, second, third and fourth days after parturition respectively. Slightly ($P>0.1$) more colostrum (55% of total yield) was obtained from the left side of the mammary gland compared to the right side (45%). The mean total immunoglobulin (Ig) concentration of colostrum fell from 99g/l on the first day after parturition to 17.7g/l on the fourth day. The relative proportions in colostrum of IgG1, IgG2, IgM and IgA on the first day after parturition were 71 %, 11 %, 6.4% and 11.5%, respectively. Both the volumetric yields and the Ig content of the colostrum appeared to be sufficient to support lamb survival.

Keyword