

MORTALITY IN ONE TO SIX-MONTH-OLD WEST AFRICAN DWARF LAMBS

E.B. Otesile

Department of Veterinary University of Ibadan, Nigeria

ABSTRACT

Investigations were conducted on the incidence and aetiology of mortality among West African Dwarf (WAD) lambs aged 31 to 180 days. A mortality rate of 23.8% per annum was recorded. Neither birth weight nor passively-acquired serum immunoglobulin (Ig) concentration significantly ($P > 0.05$ for both) affected lamb mortality rates. The mortality rates for male lambs (21.9%) and females (25.5%) were not significantly ($P > 0.05$) different. Also, the mortality rates between single lambs (23.6%), twins (23.3%) and triplets (33.3%) were not significantly ($P > 0.1$) different. The chief causes of death were haemonchosis (25.2%), taeniasis (11.4%), pneumonia (17.6%), enterotoxaemia (13.8%) and bacterial enteritis (10.5%). The significant effects of birth weight and passively-acquired serum Ig concentration on mortality rate in neonatal WAD lambs in the flock studied, did not appear to extend to the one to six months age group

Keyword