

ESTROUS CYCLE AND PERIOD EVALUATION IN AN UNDEFINED BREED TYPE (SRD) FOR GOATS IN NORTHEAST BRAZIL

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An experiment was conducted from July 11, 1979 to July 10, 1980 to evaluate the length and distribution of estrous cycles and periods throughout the year. Thirty SRD female goats, 16-20 months of age were randomly assigned to two treatments (control and feed supplemented) of 16 and 14 animals each. All animals were grazed on native pasture (2.3 ha/head/year) with *ad libitum* salt and bonemeal. The supplemented goats also received green chopped elephant grass at the rate of 2% dry matter of their body weight in addition to native pasture from November 2, 1979 to February 26, 1980 which constituted the most critical part of the dry season. The data obtained from these goats were also compared for the wet season (2/27 to 7/10/80) and dry season (7/11/79 to 2/26/80). The data contained 480 estrous cycles and 511 estrous periods ob-

tained using teaser bucks. From the 480 estrous cycles 10.6, 76.9 and 12.5% were considered as short (<15 days), medium (15-24 days) and long (>24 days), respectively. Individual estrous cycle lengths varied from 5-69 days and individual estrous period lengths varied from 12-192 hours. The average lengths of the estrous cycles were 20.9 + 6.9 VS 21.5 + 7.0 days ($P > 0.05$) and of the estrous periods 55.8 + 16.3 VS 57.4 + 16.2 hours ($P > 0.05$) for the control and feed supplemented groups, respectively. The average of the estrous cycles and periods were 20.6 + 5.3 VS 21.8 + 7.4 days ($P > 0.05$) and 62.02 + 15.6 VS 51.17 + 16.2 hours ($P < 0.05$) for the wet and dry seasons, respectively. The occurrence of estrous activity classified by month was evenly distributed throughout the year (average of 8.3% and monthly variation of 7.0-9.8%).

* - indicates presenter