

investigation, conducted on a sample of 450 goats reared on 11 farms had the objective of defining the breeding capability of these animals and estimating some biometrical parameters and some characteristics of the milk, (milk yield, fat content, protein content, etc.). The records were utilized to identify a visible genetic profile of the autochthonous goats in Molise. This goat is characterized by the following features: average height at withers, nearly 66 cm and cross, nearly 67 cm; average chest girth, nearly 84 cm; average anterior width of croup, 15 cm; coat with long hair, 77% of individuals; absence of wattles, 59%; presence of horns, 57%; ears of normal length. The pigmentation model patterns were 9, among which the eumelanic was found to have 31% of incidence, the spotted cheek 12% and the phaeomelanic 8%. Nearly 4 animals out of 10 showed spotted coat, the irregular one being the most diffused.

KEY WORDS: Goat, Milk, Biometrical Parameters, Phenotypic Characters

18 PREWEANING GROWTH OF GERMAN ALPINE, ANGLO NUBIAN AND SRD KIDS UNDER SEMI-INTENSIVE GRAZING

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Data for this study were collected at 'Pendencia' Experimental Station from 1980 to 1983. A total of 710 kids of German Alpine, Anglo Nubian and SRD breeds were maintained on buffelgrass (*Cenchrus ciliaris*) pastures together with their dams up to 112 days of age. They had free access to water and to a mixture of equal parts of sterilized bone meal and common salt in the corrals. The weights were recorded at birth and at every 28 days. Breed, type of birth and year influenced ($P < .05$) birth weight, 28-day weight and 112-day weight. Sex had a significant effect ($P < .05$) only on birth weight and 28-day weight. Breed x type of birth interaction influenced only ($P < .05$) birth weight. Breed x sex interaction did not affect any of the weights studied. Birth weight and the 28-day weight of the kids were affected ($P < .05$) by the linear covariate weight of the dam at parturition. German Alpine, Anglo Nubian and SRD weighed 2.9, 5.2 and 11.2; 3.0 5.3 and 10.3; and 2.4, 4.4 and 9.3 kg, respectively, at birth, 28 and 112 days of age. Males weighed 2.9, 5.2 and 10.5 kg., and females 2.7, 4.8 and 10.0 kg., respectively, at the above ages. German Alpine kids showed faster growth than the other two breeds. Maternal ability and (or) larger mature size of the German Alpine does may have contributed to better growth of the kids.

KEY WORDS: Goat, Breed, Kid, Growth, Weaning Weight