

139 SURVIVAL AND GROWTH OF GOAT KIDS GRAZING NATIVE RANGE FROM DAMS SUPPLEMENTED WITH INCREMENTAL ENERGY LEVELS

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The purpose of this study was to determine kidding rates and survival and growth at weaning of kids grazing native "Caatinga" range as influenced by incremental energy supplementation of their dams. One hundred and twenty pre-puberal female Moxoto goats were randomly assigned to four grain supplementation treatments as a percent of body weight on an as fed basis: 0 (A), 0.6 (B), 1.2 (C), and 1.8 (D). Sorghum grain was offered individually to the does in head lock feeders twice a day, before and after grazing (0600 h and 1700 h). Goats rotationally grazed three 65 hectare areas of native range. The does were bred at their third estrus as detected by eight vasectomized goats. Each of the five Moxoto bucks used for breeding, bred six does from each treatment. The kidding season started in June 1985, at the beginning of the dry season. All births were single. Number of kids born (A-D) were: 5, 19, 16, and 17. Kid navels were treated with an iodine solution (10% v/v). Kids had no access to concentrate. At 30 days of age, kids accompanied their dams to the range and were weaned at 112 days. Number of kids weaned (A-D) were: 3, 18, 15 and 17. Treatment means followed by standard deviations are presented by increasing supplement level (A-D), as follows. Birth weights (kg): 1.95 (.23), 1.95 (.37), 1.86 (.24) and 2.03 (.35); weaning weights (kg): 6.43 (1.51), 8.86 (1.37), 8.82 (1.68) and 10.26 (1.77); and weight gains (g/day): 40 (14), 60 (12), 60 (14) and 73 (14). Sorghum supplementation, regardless of level, appeared to increase kidding rates and kid survival at weaning. Birth weights were similar across treatments, but kid weaning weights and weight gains tended to increase with increasing energy supplementation.

KEY WORDS: Goats, kids, kid survival, range, energy supplementation.

140 WATER INTAKE OF MARADI GOATS IN NIGERIA

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Maradi goats also known as Red Sokoto goats are found in the Savanna zone of Northern Nigeria. Twenty (20) Maradi goats were used for this study, 10 males and 10 females. Five of the males were one year old while the other five were two years old, the same applied to the females. The goats were fed and watered in