

REPRODUCTIVE AND PRODUCTIVE PERFORMANCE OF THE UNDEFINED (SRD) GENOTYPE OF GOATS UNDER THE TRADITIONAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM OF NORTHEAST BRAZIL

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Reproduction and production levels are low under traditional goat management systems in northeast Brazil. A two-year experiment was conducted (9/1/78 to 8/31/80) simulating the producers management practices to evaluate the performance of SRD goats. Forty-seven and fifty female and two male goats were used for the first and second years respectively, and were maintained on native pasture (1.5 ha/head/year) plus salt and water ad libitum. The animals were vaccinated for foot and mouth disease every four months and treated for internal parasites three times a year. The does were exposed for breeding continuously throughout the two years of the experimental period. The does kidded throughout the year. The overall fertility (percent of does kidding of total does exposed

to male) was 78.5% with two peaks in February and October. The overall incidence of abortion was 24.7% with a peak in July. Thirty-two percent of the does kidded twice in one year and an additional 5.2% kidded three times in two years. From 85 kiddings recorded, 54.1, 37.6, 1.2 and 7.1% were singles, twins, triplets and undetermined, respectively; prolificacy was 1.3 and the overall average kidding interval was 282.5 ± 89.9 days. From 113 kids born, 68.1% died before weaning at 112 days, with 60.9, 71.9 and 100% mortality for singles, twins and triplets, respectively. The postpartum period for 19 does producing singles and 14 does producing twins was 93.2 ± 35.2 and 104.9 ± 23.6 days, respectively ($P < 0.05$).