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Effect of Thermal Stress on Semen Parameters of Alpine Buck

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Abstract

High zootechnical and economic productivity of goat production depend on the number of kids raised, weaned, and marketed each year. The reproductive performances of does and bucks, in the breeding season are influenced by some factors whose the most important are climatic components notably ambient temperature, humidity, air movement, photoperiod, solar radiation, wind speed. Theses climatic factors may impose stress on the productive and reproductive performance traits of goats. Therefore, there is urgent demand to assess the effect of thermal stress on physiological and biochemical traits of semen in bucks. This study aims to assess the effect thermal stress on different semen parameters of Alpine bucks raised at Experimental Farm of Çukurova University (EFÇU) and some private farms of project of Ministry of Agriculture.

This research will be carried out during one month winter (January), spring (April) and summer (June). It will question to determine the cold and heat stress on some:

- Blood parameters including: Red Blood Cells (RBC) and White Blood Cells (WBC), Packed Cells Volume (PCV%), Haemoglobin (HB%) and ESR. PCV and HB concentration will be determined by microhaematocrit and cyanmethemoglobin

- Semen parameters like: Color, consistency and volume of ejaculate. Also sperm concentration will be determined using the improved Neubauer haemocytometer after dilution. Sperm mass activity, progressive motility, live-dead ratio and morphological aberrations (Acrosomal integrity) will be determined by conventional methods.

Keywords: Thermal Stress, Alpine Buck.