

## RESEARCH NOTE

### THE EARLY POST PARTUM RECONCEPTION OF ANGORA GOAT EWES

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After reaching a peak during May, the breeding activity of the Angora goat ewe, declines during August and is virtually insignificant in September (Marincowitz, 1962). It is therefore doubtful that ewes kidding after the end of June will reconceive within that same year. However, the effects of heterosexual stimuli, absence of suckling, weaning or other unknown stimuli are not yet fully understood. This is demonstrated by the following experience:

On 21 and 22 February 1979, 395 Angora goat ewes were inseminated following a 14-day intravaginal progestogen sponge (Fluorogestone acetate: Syncromate; Searle) treatment and 400 IU PMSG (ANTERON: Schering) intra-muscular at sponge withdrawal. The ewes were inseminated with semen (electro ejaculation) 48 and 60 h after sponge withdrawal, regardless of oestrus detection. Following the final insemination 6 rams were introduced to the group to cover the ewes not on heat at the time of insemination. Approximately 3 days before the expected kidding date, 328 ewes (82,8% of total)

with obviously extended udders were identified and maintained on lucerne lands. From 19 to 23 July the majority of ewes kidded during a period of heavy rains. In order to save the kids, 130 of them were taken from their mothers and hand raised. Many other kids died in the rain so that approximately 200 of the ewes which gave birth were not suckling kids. At this stage the rams were running with the ewes. Between 160 and 176 days following kidding 152 (76%) of these ewes kidded for a second time. They had thus conceived between 11 and 25 post partum post partum (1 - 14 August).

It has also been reported that in the breeding season Angora ewes show oestrus shortly after abortion (Van Heerden, 1963). It is therefore concluded that either the absence of suckling or the presence of a ram, or both, stimulated the early resumption of post partum ovarian activity in these Angoras during the breeding season. Whatever the stimulus may be, there can be no doubt that the Angora goat ewe can reconceive within 11 to 25 days post partum.

#### References

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