OVARIAN AND ESTROUS ACTIVITY THROUGHOUT THE YEAR IN PREGNANT AND NONPREGNANT EWES SELECTED FOR EXTENDED BREEDING SEASON

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Twenty-nine DLS (1/2 Dorset, 1/4 Leicester, 1/4 Suffolk) ewes selected for extended breeding season, were involved in this study which lasted for 18 mo. According to their lambing date relative to January first, 15 ewes had a high lambing index whereas the others had a low index, the difference being 33 days ($P<0.01$). Half the ewes were assigned at random to remain nonpregnant throughout the study, whereas the other half was mated in July and August. From 1 May to 15 July, 20 ewes (69%) were cycling of which 81% were from the high and 54% from the low index group ($0.05>P<0.10$). Two ewes (7%) continued cycling throughout the summer, whereas the remaining 18 ewes experienced a period of summer anestrus which occurred on 27 May (± 3.5 days) and lasted for an average of 63 ± 2.6 days. The first ovulation (unaccompanied by estrus) was observed on 29 July (± 2.6 days) the second ovulation, 20 days later was accompanied by estrus. The breeding season in nonpregnant ewes lasted 194 ± 3.2 days ending on 1 Mar. (± 7.3 days). The average lambing date of the 15 pregnant ewes was 8 Jan. (± 2.8 days). Seven of these ewes exhibited at least one ovulation postpartum, but in only two ewes was the ovulation accompanied by estrus. Introducing rams daily indicated that marker rams were successful in detecting only 88% of the ewes in estrus. Sixty-six percent of the false heats were observed prior to resumption of the regular estrous cycle.

Dans un projet, qui a duré 18 mois, on a utilisé 29 brebis DLS (1/2 Dorset, 1/4 Leicester, 1/4 Suffolk) pour étudier la caractéristique de la longueur de la saison d'accouplement que possèdent ces brebis. Par rapport à leur date moyenne d'agnelage, située au premier janvier, 15 brebis ont obtenu un indice d'agnelage élevé, alors que l'indice des autres fut plutôt bas, la différence étant de 33 jours. La moitié des brebis furent assignées au hasard et sont demeurées non gestantes durant toute l'étude, alors que les autres ont été accouplées en juillet et août. Vingt brebis (69%) ont cyclé entre le 1er mai et le 15 juillet. Quatre-vingt-un pour cent d'entre elles appartenaient au groupe à indice élevé et 54% à l'autre groupe. Deux brebis ont continué de cycler pendant tout l'été. Les 18 autres n'ont pas eu de chaleur durant cette saison, qui a débuté le 27 mai (± 3.5 jours) pour se prolonger pendant une moyenne de 63 jours (± 2.6). C'est le 29 juillet (± 2.6 jours), que nous avons observé la 1ère ovulation. Elle n'était pas accompagnée de chaleur. La seconde ovulation, cette fois accompagnée de chaleur, a été perçue 20 jours plus tard. La saison d'accouplement des brebis

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