

Effects of farm management practices on reproduction efficiency and lamb survival



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AIM:

Significant between-flock variation is known to exist for both flock fertility and lamb survival, with estimates ranging from 3% to 50% for mortality rates in lambs under a wide range of production systems and environments.

To evaluate the effects that farm management practices have on sheep reproduction outputs and lamb survival under extensive production systems.

MATERIALS AND METHODS:

- » 20 commercial sheep farms located (912.6 ewes)
- » dual-purpose Turcana breed
- » 1 lambing/year and stoking rates of 5-7 ewes/ha
- » comparative study between top 5% better farms and the average



Results and discussions:

- » Flock fertility was on average 94.3%, with limits ranging from 88% to 98%, while the average for the best farms was 97%
- » Abortion rate was on average 2.4%, with limits between 1.1% and 5.3%, while the best farms had an incidence of 1.4%
- » Lamb mortality from birth to weaning (75 ± 10 days) was 2.7%, with limits ranging between 1.2% and 4.9%, with the best farms losing 1.3% of the lambs born alive
- » The average number of lambs produced per ewe put to ram was 1.06, with limits ranging from 0.84 to 1.27, while the best farms produced 1.19 lambs per breeding ewe

