Milk Yield Characteristics and Liveweight of Indigenous Şavak Akkaraman Sheep of Turkey

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Abstract

With this study, it is aimed to present the intoductory information for the first time about Shavak sheep which is very important in cheese production. Shavak sheep that is variety of Akkaraman, native breed of Turkey, are bred at province of Erzincan, Elazığ, Tunceli and Munzur valley. The name of Shavak sheep is from Shavak tribe living in region. The Shavak tribe is a family breeding ewes during long years in this region. The population of Shavak sheep is continiously improved in terms of milk yield by breeders because it is bred for milk production.

The Shavak ewes have generally smaller body than Kangal and the other Akkaraman varieties. Their wool is longer and brighter than the other varieties. However, there are more splash called as ‘basma’ on head of ewes. The “tulum cheese” production is highly important because this region is center of the cheese production. Therefore, these cheeses are producted in the region is named as “Erzincan tulum cheese” or “Şavak tulum cheese”.

Milking of ewes started after weaning (approximately 45 days) is continued up to beginning months of October. Therefore, the Shavak ewes have longer milking period than the other varieties of Akkaraman. This situation is exact opposite of practices made related with milking in the other regions of the country. The majority of produced milk is used manufacturing cheese.

In this study, means of the liveweight in Şavak Akkaraman was found 50.52±0.64 kg for ewes and 76.71±1.35 kg for rams. Lactation length and lactation milk yield was calculated 205.78±2.03 days and 88.77±3.53 kg, respectively.

Keywords: Şavak Akkaraman, Milk Yield, Live weight