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The effect of urea molasses multinutrient block supplementation during late pregnancy and lactation on lamb crop of a nomadic sheep flock in Saveh Township under tribe condition

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Abstract

This study was conducted to investigate the effect of feeding supplemental urea - molasses multinutrient block (UMMB) during late pregnancy and lactation on lamb performance of a nomadic sheep flock in Saveh area. Sixty ewes of Zandi sheep were divided in to similar groups of control and experimental. The control group was fed with ranch feed only in nomadic manner. Each ewe in the experimental group received 100 grams of nutritional supplement blocks per day in addition to grazing in rangelands. Results indicated that mean birth weight of lambs in the experimental group was higher than the control group (4.4 kg in the experimental group and 3.8 kg in the control group). There were significant differences among groups for weaning weight of lambs ($P < 0.05$). The weaning weight of lambs in the experimental group was higher than the control group (20.1 kg in the experimental group and 17.2 kg in the control group). The mean daily weight gain of lambs from birth to 90 days in the control and experimental groups were 148.8 and 173.4 g/day, respectively which was higher ($p < 0.05$) in experimental group. In general, the results of this study showed that daily feeding of 100 g Multinutrient block, in ewe during the last 2 months of pregnancy and the first three months of lactation improved the production performance in nomadic livestock breeding conditions.

Keyword: urea- molasses multinutrient block, lamb crop, nomadic sheep flock, Saveh