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Defining breeding goals and strategy for Kurdi sheep

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Abstract

The aim of this study was to estimate the economic values of traits and to determine a breeding goal for Kurdi sheep population under rural system. In a whole production period, 7 Kurdi flocks were periodically studied to collect detailed information from the production system. The parameters needed for analysis in the model were flock structure, production variables, management variables, feed intake variables, management costs, marketing costs, fixed costs and prices. The parameters were collected from the 7 flocks, market or scientific resources. The collected data were used for estimating the economic value, economic weight and relative importance of traits to determine a breeding goals for the breed. The results showed that *net reproductive efficiency,* annual profit per ewe, the ratio of revenue to costs and the ratio of costs to revenue were 0.54, 3192860 rials, 1.35 and 0.74, respectively. The study of economic weights showed that conception rate, litter size, pre-weaning lambs survival, lambing frequency, post-weaning lambs survival up to sale, lambs live weight at sale, ewe survival, replacements live weight (with a negative coefficient), mature ewe live weight (with a negative coefficient) and wool production are important, respectively. The traits based on the rating can be considered in breeding programs to enhance the profitability of flocks.

Key words: Breeding goals, Economic values, Kurdi sheep, Kurdistan Province.