

Survey on feeding status of dairy goat industry in Taiwan ⁽¹⁾

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Abstract

The goat industry should develop knowledge in raising and professional management gradually, which could provide reference in Taiwan. A total of 139 goat farms with a feeding scale of more than 100 heads were surveyed. The number of farms surveyed and goat raised accounted for 53.7% and 92.9% of the domestic total farms and dairy goat population respectively. 71.3% of raised goat breeds were Alpine goats. The number of kids born in spring and autumn was significantly higher than that in summer and winter. There was no significant difference in the survival rate of goat kid born in different seasons, which averaged above 80%. Mortality of goat kid was the highest within 7 days after birth as compared with other stages. The most common causes of death for goat kids were diarrhea and pneumonia. Only 47.3% of farms gave creep feed to goat kids within 14 days of age. Age at weaning was 3.0 ± 1.1 months in 71.2% of farms. 88.5% of farms were dehorned the goat kids, and 93.1% of them were done within 30 days of age. The heads of lactating goat was the majority (85.3%) raised below 200. 67.9% of goat who were culled under the fourth parity. On average, lactating goats were culled within 3-4 parity (46.5%). Between 55 to 65 years old of owners was most distributed, accounting for 45.4%. 89.1% of main managers were male. The average number of workers per farm was 3.03 ± 1.1 , one labor managed 96.4 ± 41.8 heads of goats. The property rights of farms were 95.6% with self-owned assets. The average barn year of goat farm was 23.6 ± 1.39 years, area of goat barn and height of high-bed was 835 m² and 1.38 ± 0.56 m, respectively. Only 45.3% of goat farms were used mechanical manure removal equipment. 82.5% of farms have established individual identification for goats, but only less than 30% of farms actually implement reproduction, feeding, and cost records. In short, Taiwan's dairy goat industry has basic concepts in feeding management. However, it will need promote in the early weaning of kids, the productive life of the does, milk yield and the efficiency of worker use in the future. In addition, management records should be implemented as a reference for breeding, operating efficiency, and disease management. The survey of dairy goat farms could be used as primary information to provide references for future industry development and related research.

Key words: Production and marketing, Goat facilities, Goat worker, Dairy goat breed, Feeding and management.

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