

OESTRUS PATTERNS OF PROGESTERONE TREATED YANKASA EWES IN THE HOT DRY AND LATE WET SEASONS

BY

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Differences in oestrus patterns of 20 Yankasa ewes of 2 age groups (Adult vs Yearling) in hot dry and late wet seasons were investigated in a 2 X 2 X 10 factorial experiment. Mean oestrus cycle length was significantly ($p < 0.001$) affected by season, with the hot dry season (30.88 ± 2.4) abnormally having longer cycles than the late wet season (18.40 ± 0.15). None of the factors under consideration significantly affected the mean duration of oestrus ($p > 0.05$). Season significantly affected the frequency of oestrus, while age group did not. No behavioural oestrus were observed for 60 and 0% of the ewes in the hot dry and late wet seasons, whereas 25, 15 and 0% of the ewes in the hot dry and 5, 10 and 85% of the ewes in the cold dry season came on heat once, twice and thrice respectively, within a period of 40 days. The observed disruptions in the oestrus cycle of the ewes in the hot dry season confirm the heat stress effect on the reproductive behaviour of ewes.