

General Information about Sheep, Goat, Cattle

Sheep: are mammals, ruminant and classified as even-toed ungulates. Sheep are herbivores, which mean their diet does not include meat. They typically eat seeds, grass and plants. The main purpose of raising in Iraq is for Meat (lamb) and then Milk.

Body temperature **38- 39 °C**, Heart rate **60-90** beats/minute, Respiration **12-20** breaths/minute

How long sheep can live?

Ewe lives about **10 to 12** years. Some breeds are known for being longer-lived, e.g. Merino 23 years. The length of ewe's productive lifetime peaks between **4 and 6 years** of age and decrease after the age of 7 years. It also can be productive till 10 years if ewe fed well in a good environment.

Ram live about 10- 12 years, ram is used to breed in a 34 or 51-day breeding season

Reproduction in the Sheep

Ram: puberty is the age at which the ram's reproductive organs become functional.

Ram reaches puberty at 5 and 7 to 12 months. A ram can mate 3 to 4 ewes per day. Ram lamb should be able to mate 15 to 30 ewes in a 34 day breeding season.

Ram to ewe ratio: Mature ram **1:35 - 1:50**, Ram lamb **1:15 - 1:30**

Ewe: ewe lambs reach puberty between **5 and 12 months** of age.

Reproduction in non-human mammals is regulated by an estrus cycle. In sheep, the length of the estrus (Heat) cycle ranges from **13 to 19** days and averages **17 days** and it lasts 24 to 36 hours.

Gestation (**pregnancy**): The average gestation length in sheep varies from **142 to 152 days**. The average is **147 days** (5 months)

Ewe can give a birth 1 lamb in a year

Goat

Goat is mammals, ruminant and classified as even-toed ungulates. Goats are preferred to reach upwards for foods rather than grazing on grasses and they can be feed on poor roughages.

Body temperature 38- 39 °C , Heart rate 70-90 beats/minute ,Respiration 10-30 breaths/minute

How long Goat can live?

Goat lives about **15 – 18** years. A doe can produce kids around **10-12** years. Bucks can be used from **8-10** years.

Reproduction in the Goat

Doe: The age of puberty for female goats is between 7-10 months. Does any breed come into heat every 21 days for from 2 – 48 hours.

Gestation (length of pregnancy) is usually 150 days (5 months). At the end of the gestation period, either a single goat is born or twins or triplets.

Buck: puberty is around 4-8 months in male goats and for mating should be 8-12 months.

At age 1 year buck 1:10 does, 2 years old, 1: 25 does. At the age of 3 and older, he can breed up to 40 does at one time (in one month).

Bucks have the 'Rut' which change in normal behaviour and it is characterized by a decrease in appetite, obsessive interest in the Does, fighting between Bucks, strong odour.

Cattle (Bull, Beef, Cow)

are mammals, ruminant and classified as even-toed ungulates. Cattle are commonly raised for meat (beef or veal, beef cattle), for milk (dairy cattle), and for work.

Beef Cattle: The highest quality beef comes from animals that are under **36 months** (3 years) of age, and it can be slaughtered at age 1 to 2 years. **Calves** are best slaughtered between **3 and 16 weeks of age**.

Bull: Bulls can remain until they are **10 or 12 years** of age, but usually remain in the herd for **4 to 5 years**.

Dairy Cow: A cow can live for around **20 years** but in commercial systems cow will be culled from 5-6 years old, cow can give birth from 2-3 years old age

Reproduction in Cattle

Bull: young bull calves get puberty at 37- 50 weeks (1 Year)

Ratio Bull to cow (Natural mating): 1 year age bull / 15-20 cow, 2 year bull / 20-30 cow, 3+year bull / 30-40 cow

Cow: puberty age 13-14months, cow can give birth at age 2 years old. The length of the estrus cycle (Heat) usually ranges from about **17 to 24 days**, and it continues about 18 hours and ovulation occurs approximately 12 hours after the end of estrus. 60-90 days after calving cow can have estrus cycle.

Gestation period: ranges from **279 to 287 days**. For most breeds, **283 days** (9.5 months) would be common.