



Tikrit University
College of Veterinary Medicine

Lec no. 10.

Breeds of sheep.

Subject name: animal management.

Subject year: 2025.

Lecturer name: ziyad tareq omer.

Academic Email: ziyad1976tariq

@tu.edu.iq



SCAN ME

Lecturers link

bologna process 2024 – 2025.

1st class ‘ 1st semester.

Animal management.

Lec no. 10.

Types and breeds of sheep: breeds of sheep

Sheep are classified based on several variables and criteria.

A- Environmental conditions and geographical areas in which it breeds.

B- The quality, grade and softness of wool.

C- The purpose of breeding or type of production (meat, milk or wool).

D- The type or shape of the tail.

E- The presence or absence of horns.

F- The ability to have multiple births.

Below is an explain of each category...

A- Environmental conditions and geographical areas in which it breed .

1- Sheep of mountainous and hilly areas. (Al-Hamdani and Al-Karadi).

2- Sheep of plain areas (Oxford Down, Dorset Down).

B- The quality and degree of softness of wool.

1- Soft-fleeced sheep (Merino, Rambolet).

2- Medium wool sheep (Hampshire, Shropshire).

3- Sheep with coarse wool. (Iraqi sheep in general) is called carpet wool.

4- Fur-producing sheep. (The Karakul).

C- The purpose of breeding or type of production.

In addition to wool production, there are types that specialize in either mainly meat production, milk production, dual-purpose (meat and milk), or triple-purpose (meat, wool, and milk).

1- Meat-producing sheep. mutton (meat production) breeds

The sheep of this group specialize in the production of meat, both quantitatively and qualitatively. They are characterized by rapid growth, large size, and high weight. They may be pure or hybrid species. The hybrid types (Texel, Hampshire and Awassi). Hybrid = crossbreed.

As for the hybrid types, most of them are a mixture of two or more types, examples of which include the Suffolk hybrid with the Romney, and the South Down with the Welsh.

2- Milk-producing sheep. dairy breeds.

These types are characterized by their abundant production of milk with a high percentage of fat, which may reach 6.5%. The quantities produced vary from one type to another or from one breed to another one, and in general, production ranges between 150 - 450 kg / season (3-4) months.

D- Species with multiple births. prolific breeds.

These species are characterized by producing twins, triplets, quadruplets, and even quintuplets in one birth, and the most famous species is the Finnish-Landris or finch-landrace.

E- Classification of sheep according to the type or shape of the tail. tail type.

1- Short-tailed sheep (Finch Landrace).

2- Long-tailed sheep (most European species).

3- Sheep with fat tail (Iraqi sheep, Turkish Karaman)

4- Sheep with fat rump tails (Chinese Kazakh, Russian Kentuck and Kalmyk)

5- Types with a small mechanism (Cyprus cyprus).

Iraqi sheep:

Iraqi sheep are considered sheep with coarse or carpet wool and a wide pelvis used to store energy in the form of fat to benefit from in times and seasons of poor nutrition.

These sheep contribute to filling a large part of the production of excellent red meat, in addition to their production of milk, wool, and leather. Their milk is also characterized by a high percentage of fat that may reach 7.5%. Iraqi sheep are raised on natural pastures and are distinguished by their ability to walk long distances ranging between 5-20 feet. how much.

Types of Iraqi sheep.

1- Al-Awassi.

It is one of the most famous types and constitutes about 60% of the total number of sheep in Iraq. It is abundant in the central region and extends to the northern plains up to Mosul, passing through the western and northwestern deserts and the island to Rutba.

It is also found in southern Türkiye, Syria, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Palestine and Algeria.

The wool of the body is white and the color of the face is red-brown with a white spot or patch on the forehead. Males are characterized by the presence of horns and an arched forehead. The legs are covered with short hair in both sexes.

Females are hornless in most cases, with some exceptions, and produce milk at a rate of 100-150 kg, and the improved types may its production reaches 250 kg.

Its milk is characterized by a high percentage of fat, which may reach 7.5%. The calving season falls in the months of October and second, while the late season falls in February, March, and April.

Males weigh about 75 kg, females 50 kg, and the weight of the unwashed (raw) fleece is 2 kg. Awassi sheep tolerate high temperatures and are able to live on poor pastures in areas with little rainfall.

2 - Kurdish.

It is abundant in the mountainous northern region in the governorates of Erbil, Sulaymaniyah, Kirkuk and Nineveh. It is characterized by its black or dark brown face and the absence of horns. One of its most famous breeds is the Hamdani.

3- Al-Hamdani.

It is considered one of the good sheep of the northern regions found in the governorates of Erbil, Dohuk and Nineveh. It is characterized by its large size, large mechanism, and long body and neck. The color of the head, neck and shoulders is light brown or dark brown. It has large, wide, pendulous ears that are characterized by the absence of horns in both sexes.

It is good at producing milk and has a higher rate of twins than the Awassi. It is suitable for breeding in the central region.

The weight of the ram ranges between 80-100 kg, the weight of the ewe is 70 kg, and the weight of the unwashed (raw) fleece is 3-4 kg.

4-Al-Arabiya.

It is abundant in the southeastern region of Iraq. It is small in size, the color of the wool varies between red, black and brown, and it is somewhat soft. The horns are present in both sexes, and the mechanism is small in size. The weight of the ram is 55-70 kg, the ewe 40-50 kg, and the fleece 1-1.5 kg.

5 - Al Nuaimiya.

They are abundant in the northern and humid desert up to Mosul. They resemble the Awassi to a very large extent and are considered related to them, but they weigh less and have softer, white wool. Their endurance is better than the Awassi.

The weight of a ram ranges between 50-70 kg, the weight of an adult ewe ranges between 40-50 kg, and the weight of a fleece ranges from 1-1.