THE EFFECT OF INFECTION WITH WIRE WORM *Haemonchus contortus* ON PRODUCTIVE & IMMUNOLOGICAL TRAITS IN LOCAL SHEEP & GOATS.

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this study was to investigate the resistance of local Awassi lambs and Black Iraqi kids for the infection by *Haemonchus contortus* and to find out the effect of the infection on some productive and immune parameters.

Twenty lambs and kids of age 8 - 9 months were used and include 10 each. They were divided into two groups (A & B) containing 6 and 4 animals respectively. The animals in group A were infected with a dose of 500 larvae/kg body weight, while group B kept as control groups to evaluate egg counts in the feces/gm, body weight changes, physical characteristics of the wool and hair, and serum immunoglobulin was measured.

The results revealed that eggs in the feces were detected at 17-21 days of the infection. Lambs showed higher EPG’s volume compared with kids along the experimental period. Significant decrease in weekly body weight of those infected lambs and kids compared with control groups. The infected lambs showed more significant decrease in their body weights compared with infected kids, more reduction in wool physical traits of lambs than in the hair traits of kids. Partial self-cure in kids noted in infected due to lack of eggs counts in the feces and weekly gains was higher with time but the infected lambs showed only reduction in eggs count and feces. Moreover, significant increase in the immunoglobulins was noticed. The change in traits were more effect in lambs than those in kids.