THE PATTERN OF LAMINITIS OCCURRENCE IN SHEEP IN DROUGHT CONDITIONS (2008-2009) IN SUBURB OF SHIRAZ, IRAN

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LAMENESS in sheep can occur due to different causes such as ovine interdigital dermatitis, infectious footrot, foot abscess, Orf, arthritis and white muscle disease. During the course of the drought (2008-2009) in the region of Shiraz suburbs a different pattern of the occurrence of laminitis was noted which triggered us to carry out this study. LAMENESS due to laminitis was studied in small feedlot herds (n< 120), medium size feedlot herds (n= 120-250) and large feedlot herds (n> 250). The area under study was suburbs of Shiraz and the incidence of the LAMENESS due to laminitis was recorded. A total of 23 herds (8 from small, 9 from medium size and 6 from large feedlot herds) were included in the study. The incidence of LAMENESS due to laminitis in large and medium size feedlot herds was significantly lower than the incidence of the condition in small feedlot herds (p< 0.05). No difference was found between the incidence of the disease in large and medium size feedlot herds. It was noted that the percentage of concentrates in the ration of small feedlot herds was higher than the standard levels when compared with two other groups of large and medium size feedlot herds. The study showed that the ultimate cause of the higher incidence of the disease in small feedlot herds was a drought related problem which mainly affected small feedlot herds. The main sources of carbohydrate in this group were dried bread and wheat. It was concluded that the feeding management in large and medium size feedlot herds was superior to small feedlot herds. Moreover, the obligation for the use of concentrates resulted in the large amount of carbohydrates incorporation in the diet and since the owners of the small feedlot herds had little knowledge on the risks of the use of unlimited incorporation of these feedstuffs, the main losses were observed in small feedlot herds.