

Effect of feeding the medicinal herb, Chamomile flower, on some productive performance of Egyptian Zaraibi does and their new born kids.

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Summary

This research was conducted to evaluate effects of the dietary supplement with chamomile flowers on the productive performance of Egyptian Zaraibi does and their newly born kids. Ninety pregnant does were divided into three equal groups (G1, G2 and G3) and fed according to NRC (1981) allowances where diets contained 0, 5 and 10g chamomile/100 kg BW/day, respectively. The results showed minor differences in body weight of does during late pregnancy until weaning kids. Litter size increased, but insignificantly, with chamomile supplement

Alive kids per doe, especially at weaning, increased significantly due to chamomile supplement. The mortality rate of born kids was estimated as 13.5% in G2 and 10.4% in G3 vs. 19.3% in the control group. Kids weights increased with chamomile especially male kids. Accordingly, output measured as kilograms produced per doe per year improved significantly due to chamomile supplement.

The digestive disturbances symptoms on born kids (diarrhea and bloat) were clearly reduced in G2 and G3 groups than in G1.

Keywords: Zaraibi goats- chamomile flower- performance- born kids- mortality rate