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PRELIMINARY STUDY ON HERITABILITY OF MILK YIELD DURING THE DAY OF TEST IN MACEDONIANAWASSI SHEEP

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SUMMARY

About 400 ewe/test day records of Awassi sheep flock for the individual milk yield in the morning, midday and evening milking, in the day of test and fat content were used for assessment of heritabilities and genetic correlation by five-trait Animal model with two random uncorrelated effects.

It was found that the heritability for milk yield vary from 0.14 to 0.40 with the highest values in the morning. Genetic correlations between the four traits of milk yield were all very high and positive. Heritability for fat percentage was 0.21 and the correlations with yield traits were all high and negative.

The importance of the morning milking was emphasized and the necessity of more extensive studies with more data.

***Keywords**: awassi, test day, milk yield, fat percentage, heritability, genetic correlations*