

## INVESTIGATION OF REPRODUCTION, MILK YIELD AND GROWTH OF SAANEN GOAT IN TIEN GIANG PROVINCE, VIETNAM

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### ABSTRACT

The study was carried out on 24 female Saanen goats with 12 of first and 12 of second lactation periods and their 24 kids at Tam Hiep farm located in hamlet 6, Tam Hiep village, Chau Thanh district, Tien Giang province, Vietnam from May 2017 to May 2018. Reproductive data of Saanen goats were recorded on estrous cycle, gestation length, litter number, litter size at birth, litter size at weaning, preweaning mortality, percentage of male and female. Growth performance of kids were measured into 6 months. The experimental animals of study were housed in individual pens. Results showed that the average number of newly born kids, survival rate, percentage of male and female were from 1.33 to 1.42 kids/litter, from 88.9 to 89.5% and from 44 to 47%, respectively. The weight of kids at newborn, three and six months of age were 3.52 and 3.37 kg; 10.3 and 9.25 kg; 20.63 and 18.95 kg, respectively. Milk production of the first lactation period was 250.2 liters with average 1.19 liters/day/head which was lower than in the second lactation period 305.4 liters with average 1.45 liters/day/head ( $P < 0.05$ ). Milk yield increased and reached up to the peak at the 2, 3 and 4<sup>th</sup> month; then milk yield was gradually declined in the 5 - 7<sup>th</sup> month ( $P < 0.05$ ). The milk yield of the Saanen crossbreed was lightly lower than with recent studies, but it is promising adequate in the region.

**Keywords:** *Saanen goat, reproduction, milk yield, growth performance*