

Peer Review

Review of: "Genetic and Environmental Influences on Awassi Lamb Weights with Implications for Breeding and Management in Jordan"

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The manuscript is a solid piece of work with practical implications for sheep breeding in arid environments. The dataset and statistical analyses are strengths, but it needs significant refinement to meet the journal's standards as follows:

- **Title:** The title is clear but could be more concise (e.g., "Genetic and Environmental Influences on Awassi Lamb Weights in Jordan").
- **Abstract:** The abstract is informative but repeats some phrases (e.g., "strong correlations"). Condense and emphasize key results (e.g., heritability estimates, ram selection).
- **Figures:** Figure 1 (map of Al-Fjaj Station) is useful but low-resolution. Provide a higher-quality image or simplify the map.
- **Tables:**
 - Table 1 is clear but could include p-values for significant effects.
 - Table 6 is informative but should clarify the ranking criteria.
 - Other comments:
 - Revise the introduction to highlight novelty and streamline the literature review (Streamline the literature review to focus on studies directly related to lamb weight, genetic parameters, and breeding strategies. Provide more context for socioeconomic constraints in Jordan to justify their relevance. Clearly define the study's objectives, specifying the growth stages (birth, weaning, 6 months, annual) and the genetic parameters (heritability, breeding values) to be estimated.)
 - Provide a detailed description of the dataset and justify exclusions.

- Clarify management practices and statistical model assumptions.
- Reduce redundancy in the results and deepen interpretation (Reduce redundancy in the results narrative by focusing on key findings and their implications rather than reiterating table data. Discuss the coefficients of variation and their relevance to weight variability. Provide more interpretation of the decline in breeding values with age, linking to environmental factors. Clarify the criteria for ram rankings and suggest a practical threshold for selection (e.g., top 10% of rams).
- Focus the discussion on relevant studies and propose a specific index selection strategy (Focus the discussion on studies directly relevant to Awassi sheep or similar arid-region breeds. Substantiate claims with data from the study or clarify their speculative nature. Compare heritability estimates with those from other sheep breeds to contextualize the findings. Propose a specific index selection strategy, identifying key traits (e.g., weaning weight, 6-month weight) and their weights in the index.)
- Revise conclusions to reflect specific contributions.
- Edit for clarity, correct grammatical errors, and standardize references.
- Describe supplementary data and address data availability.

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.