

Review of: "The Choice of Breeding Objectives and Selection Criteria Decided by Breeders of Various Goat Breeds and Factors Influencing Them"

Peter Amer

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

This is a very interesting study, and gives a valuable perspective on the attitudes and preferences of goat rearers in UAE when they consider desirable attributes of their goats. Comparison with other literature is thorough, and interpretation of the reasons for differences in preferences seem sound. Of note is the wide diversity of breeds and farming conditions, and the importance given due to the challenging environment that the goats need to survive in. The next step for stakeholders interested in making genetic improvement in UAE small ruminants should be to put in place a recording system that allows quantitative data to be captured on the performance of goats. Herds where there is a specific interest in genetic improvement and the dissemination of breeding bucks to other flocks should be targeted for recording effort. A central progeny test structure to better characterise breed differences and to help identify elite breeding bucks would also be helpful. While growth rate and doe prolificacy and fertility traits are identified as being important, engagement would likely be maximised if due attention is also paid to characterising the morphological aspects of the goats that are desired by a significant proportion of the goat herders surveyed.