

GENERAL AND SPECIFIC ETHOLOGICAL INDICATORS OF SHEEP

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ABSTRACT

This article provides information on general and specific ethological indicators of different breeds of sheep related to various factors of the external environment, nutrition, rumination, sleep, fatigue, rest, and puberty.

Keywords: different breeds of sheep, pasture, feed, herd, season, stress, general and specific ethology.

INTRODUCTION

Sheep breeding is the main and productive branch of animal husbandry. That is why its number is in the first place among other types of animals. Professor A.T. Misik (2012) reported that 1153% of the sheep meat was produced in Africa, 5.0% in the Americas, 52.1% in Asia, 13.8% in Europe and 13.8% in Oceania. From the above information, it is possible to conclude about the place of sheep breeding in the world animal husbandry. Sheep breeding is considered the main industry in all countries.

Since sheep are animals that produce many different products, their nutrition and feeding have their own characteristics. Sheep are primarily pasture animals that get food by walking on their own feet.

That is why in the winter season, when there is less grass in the pasture, the live weight of sheep decreases on average by 15-20 kg.

The external environment: heat, cold, rain, snow, wind, storm has a great influence on the ethological indicators of sheep and completely changes their behavior in the pasture.

Since sheep are herd animals, it is important to study the development of their innate herd instinct. This includes their herd following the footsteps of one or more leaders, which begins 3-6 weeks after the start of the fight for leadership.

Getting comfortable in unfavorable temperature conditions. If the ewes freeze in the rain and their wool is wet, their milk yield is 16.6; It decreases to 20.8 and 34.6 percent (for different generations). It is important for sheep to see with their eyes and hear with their ears to react correctly to the external environment. Sheep that have not been in the herd for a month are considered foreign. Ewes in particular are very aggressive, but if the ewes are not in puberty, the rams will ignore them.

Puberty of sheep, the presence of this process is an important ethological indicator. This process depends on the sheep's breed, feeding conditions, age, obesity level, season and weather. Puberty in sheep occurs mainly at 6-8 months. Puberty in rams is observed throughout the year.

During the period of sexual activity, females are in puberty every 10-20 days. The development of instinctive characteristics of common sheep can be seen from Table 1 below.

The period of puberty of some ewes passes unnoticed. An important role is played by the test ram, which is attached to 100 ewes.

It takes up to 76 hours for the ewes to come to the puberty. A ram can breed 3-4 sheep in one day and 40-50 ewes in the breeding season. However, sometimes a ram can breed 5-7 sheep in one day and 120 ewes during the breeding season (6-8 weeks). Pairing, including preparatory work, takes 1-3 minutes in total. That's why it's called the herd instinct. Analyzing the data in Table 1, rams and rams under 1 year of age have an instinct of up to 25.0% after forming a herd. This indicator is very small in ewes older than 8 years. In foals under 2 years of age, the instinct develops about 6.0% at once, and accordingly 8.82 in the following months; 11.76; 8.82; 5.88; 8.82; 2.94; It was equal to 5.88 and 2.94%. 6.25 for ewes older than 8 years; 2.08; 4.17; 2.08; 4.17; was 2.08 and 4.17%.

Thus, the general ethological indicators of sheep survival related to instinctive characteristics depended on external environment, age and productivity.

The resistance of sheep to the stress factor and the ability to adapt to it are rather high, and the feeding equator of sheep is very small. The level of adaptation depends on the economic and natural conditions, breed, and individual characteristics of sheep. The state of stress of sheep varies due to factors such as gender, weight, level of obesity, health, microclimate, feeding conditions, number of sheep in herd, quality of bedding, rearing character, proximity of predators, presence of strangers, other types of animals (feeding with dogs, goats, birds), individual incompatibility. The thickness, length, or very sparseness and shortness of the wool cover affects the stress level. Stress occurs under the influence of technological and technical factors, which vary depending on the level of chemicalization, the duration of transportation, sending the herd from one pasture to another, milking, veterinary and organizational activities.

The specific ethology of sheep, like other types of livestock, includes indicators of nutrition, movement and physiological behavior. Daily mode of livelihood is maintained in each herd. Physiological condition of sheep is determined based on those indicators. The indicator of the daily mode of livelihood often depends on the conditions of feeding and keeping of sheep.

The analysis of the data in Table 1 shows that the time spent on feeding, sleeping, and rumination increased with the increase in the number of feedings. When the number of feedings decreased, on the contrary, less time was spent on the above situations, and the sheep spent a lot of time tiredness, resting, and looking for food residues left in the bowl.

Therefore, the organization of frequent feeding of sheep has a positive effect on their productivity and some behavioral indicators.

Table 1 Some behavioral indicators of sheep (hour) (Ya. Gaupman)

Breed	Type of behavior	Feeding period in a day		
		1	2	3
Meat merinos	Feeding	5,5	6,5	7,3
	Tiredness	2,0	-	-
	Resting	1,0	1,0	-
	Rumination	6,0	8,0	9,0
	Looking for food	4,0	1,5	-

	Sleeping	5,5	8,0	7,5
Stovropol merinos	Feeding	6,5	7,0	8,0
	Tiredness	2,0	1,0	-
	Resting	2,0	1,0	1,0
	Rumination	6,0	7,0	8,0
	Looking for food	3,0	2,0	-
	Sleeping	4,5	6,0	7,0
	Improved shumov breed	Feeding	6,0	6,5
Tiredness		1,0	-	-
Resting		1,0	1,0	0,5
Rumination		7,5	7,5	8,5
Looking for food		2,0	1,0	-
Sleeping		6,5	8,0	7,5
Improved valash breed	Feeding	6,0	7,0	7,5
	Tiredness	2,0	-	-
	Resting	2,0	1,0	1,0
	Rumination	6,0	7,0	8,0
	Looking for food	3,0	2,0	-
	Sleeping	6,0	7,0	7,5
Czech breed	Feeding	6,5	7,0	8,0
	Tiredness	1,5	0,5	-
	Resting	1,0	1,0	0,5
	Rumination	7,0	7,5	8,0
	Looking for food	2,0	1,0	0,5
	Sleeping	6,0	7,0	7,0
Average	Feeding	6,0	6,8	7,7
	Tiredness	1,7	0,3	-
	Resting	1,4	1,0	0,6
	Rumination	6,5	7,4	8,3
	Looking for food	2,8	1,5	0,1
	Sleeping	5,7	7,0	7,3

Storage conditions affect behavior. Sheep get used to the equipment after 2-3 weeks and after that they are treated as natural things.

As can be seen from Table 1, sheep spent a lot of time on feeding, sleeping and rumination.

The difference between sheep and other grazing livestock is that they have the ability to cover very long distances. This feature varies depending on the breed, type, category of farm production, live weight, age, sex, quality of grass.

Meat-oriented breeds are less mobile, leather-producing karakul breeds are very mobile. Not born rams are very mobile, in the first half of the cold season, older lambs, breeding rams are somewhat mobile.

In zootechnical practice, one of the necessary indicators for animals, including sheep, is their rumination. When sheep are fed indoors, rumination is approximately between 10am and 2pm (if fed between 6am and 2am) and between 8am and 2pm (if fed between 4pm and 6pm). They does not chew when falling asleep or having a good rest. This situation lasts from 2 to 4 in the evening.

When grazing in the pasture, rumination is observed during the peak period approximately from 11 am to 1 pm (when feeding in the pasture from 7 am), from 3 pm to 5 pm and from 8 pm to 12 pm (when the daytime feeding ends at 7 pm). Rumination and hibernation are observed when the weather is bad or the bedding is not in demand. In other cases, it is done while lying down. Passive rest and sleep is expected from 10 pm to dawn. Sleep is divided into superficial and deep sleep. Deep sleep is very short and long in young animals compared to older ones. Deep sleep occurs in the second half of the night in sheep of all categories.

The movement behavior of sheep in the pasture is mainly influenced by the quality of the pasture, the external environment, the number of sheep and other factors.

From the data of Table 1, depending on the breed and number of feedings of sheep, their behavior indicators were different. Most of the time was spent on feeding and rumination. Let's say a meat merino at the 1st feeding spent 5.5 hours on feeding, 6.0 hours on rumination, 5.5 hours on sleep.

It is necessary to say that, when sheep are kept in a building, their behavioral indicators are completely different and it is affected by micro and macro temperature conditions.

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