

Daniel Chrupek, Barnaba Jaworski, Roman Niżnikowski, Michał Marciniak

Effects of selected factors on grazing behaviour in Wrzosówka sheep

S u m m a r y

Grazing behaviour of Wrzosówka sheep was monitored during the vegetation period on the wasteland area. The research was conducted for 2 years on the flock containing 300 ewes. Effects of the height of insects' flight and the intensity of suckling by lambs on the grazing behaviour of ewes were examined. The height of insects' flight slightly affected the appearance of nervousness in ewes. However, the state of nervousness was observed on lower level in case of the great height of insects' flight over the flock. During the suckling period ewes were more active in both grazing and carrying behaviour. This state was probably linked with keeping the safe distance from the farm buildings, which in consequence limited the pasture area. Absence of suckling lambs tended ewes to make the long-distance wanderings and being interested in non-conventional fodder (e.g. tree bark). That may indicate the possible use of such sheep in landscape conservation and wastelands' grazing.