



KEY WORDS

- ✓ Small ruminant
- ✓ Sheep
- ✓ Breeding
- ✓ Maternal age
- ✓ Length of stay in the herd

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THE EFFECT OF MATERNAL AGE ON THE LENGTH OF STAY IN THE HERD IN SHEEP

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THESIS ABSTRACT

One of the important parameters to consider in flock replacement strategies is dam age. The age of breeding ewes has significant effects on the growth performance, survival rate, and flock longevity of their offspring. This study was conducted using data from a Karacabey Merino flock to determine the effects of dam age on lamb birth weight, birth type, and flock retention time.

According to the research results, dam age has a statistically significant effect on the flock retention time of lambs. Significant differences were found between dam age groups in terms of twinning rates. However, there were no statistically significant differences among dam age groups regarding birth weight. Offspring of older dams contribute to the sustainability and profitability of the enterprise.

APPLICATION AREAS OF THE THESIS RESULTS

- ✓ From the perspective of flock replacement and breeding management, including offspring from older dams in the flock offers significant advantages in developing new flock establishment strategies.

ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

Akdoğan Bulut, R., & Orman, A. (2025, Mayıs 29–31). Küçük ruminantlarda anne yaşının sürüde kalma süresine etkisi [The effect of maternal age on the length of stay in the herd in small ruminants]. In **8th International Congress on Food, Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences (ICFAV 2025) Abstract Book** (s.340-341). Konya Gıda ve Tarım Üniversitesi