

# **The pattern of occurrence of diseases in sheep and goats during recent drought period in Fars province-Iran**

**Pourjafar, M.<sup>1</sup>, Badii, K.<sup>1</sup>, Ghane, M.<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>-Associate Professor, School of Veterinary Medicine, Shiraz University, Shiraz, Iran.

<sup>2</sup>Resident of Large Animal Internal Medicine, School of Veterinary Medicine, Shiraz University, Shiraz, Iran.

## **Abstract**

Drought is defined as a period of time when there is not enough water to support agricultural, urban, and human, animals, or environmental water needs. Sheep and goats are raised in different parts of Iran and are of great importance in producing meat, milk and wool. They are kept in three management systems namely: nomadic, village and small holders, and feedlot systems of which nomadic system is of great importance. These systems, especially nomadic one, are fully dependent on ranch and hence climate conditions and rainfall. Therefore, when drought occurs, the pattern of the occurrence of diseases may differ. The sheep and goats referred to Shiraz Veterinary Faculty Clinic during the drought period (January 2008 to January 2009) suffered from different diseases such as onion, spinach and *Panicum miliaceum* poisoning, *Fasciola hepatica* and *Oestrus ovis* infection, actinomycosis, vitamin A deficiency, pneumonia, polioencephalomalacia (PEM), enterotoxaemia and urinary calculi and loss of body weight to the point of cachexia, of which a number of them were more unique to one of these systems. Onion poisoning, *Fasciola hepatica* infection, actinomycosis, pneumonia and loss of body weight to the point of cachexia were seen more frequently in nomadic system. PEM, enterotoxaemia and urinary calculi were seen predominantly in feedlot system. Occurrence of *Panicum milliaceum* and spinach poisoning were recorded only in village and small holders system. Vitamin A deficiency in sheep was seen in all husbandry systems. It seems that the pattern of disease occurrence among different husbandry systems in drought period might help the veterinarians to take measures for preventing and diagnosis of such diseases in Fars province. It must be emphasized that detailed research is necessary to reach a strategic decision for next expected drought period and prepare all related organizations to the point of the best logical solutions and choosing the best options for that time.