

The manuscript presents a long-term and comprehensive evaluation of haematological responses in Karacabey Merino ewes and lambs reared under different pasture and feeding systems. The study is well done, considering current interest in sustainable and welfare-conscious ruminant production. The dataset is impressive in size and duration (26 months), and the authors utilize diverse pasture types and detailed haematological parameters. However, despite its strengths, the manuscript requires major revisions before being suitable for publication in PeerJ.

Line No.	Section	Comment / Suggestion
	Abstract	While informative, the abstract is too long and redundant. Condense numeric details and emphasize main findings only (eg: mention only key haematological parameters altered).
Line 57	Introduction	The phrase “utilization of herbaceous plants by sheep differs from other livestock” needs a citation or rewording for clarity. Consider: "Sheep display unique foraging behaviour compared to other ruminants..."
Lines 77 -80	Introduction	Mixed reporting on whether intensive or extensive systems yield better RBC or Hb values. These statements appear contradictory. Clarify this.
	Ethics	A proper ARRIVE-style statement should be added confirming animal welfare, euthanasia details, if any. Also add study approval scope (not just the protocol number).
110 - 114	Methods	Add replicate count per pasture plot and clarify whether block randomization was used. Were plots balanced for soil type, slope or plant density?
120 - 122	Mating protocol	Clarify whether hand-mating was supervised by technical personnel and whether mating success rates differed between systems.
152-160	Haematology	The use of the Diatron Abacus Junior Vet 5 is appropriate but add the CV (coefficient of variation) for intra-run precision, and whether analyses were validated for ovine species.
158	Typo	Both "LY" and "NE" are called "lymphocyte" - correct "NE" to neutrophil.
162-173	Statistics	Mention whether normality tests and variance checks (eg: Levene's test) were conducted.
225-300	Discussion	Excellent use of literature, but the Discussion is dense and repetitive. Consolidate paragraphs discussing year-wise variation and reorganize around key findings (eg: autumn pregnancy anaemia risk, stress indicators in SSG, lamb post-weaning drops).

232– 238	RBC reference	Point out clearly the deviations that are clinically meaningful (eg: below anaemia thresholds).
248– 250	Discussion	The role of Fe and B vitamin deficiency is well argued, but the manuscript must specify whether blood micronutrient profiles were tested. If not, add that statement as a limitation in the study.
272– 275		Mention that behavioural stress assessment (eg: cortisol, faecal indicators) was not done. This limits confirmation of stress responses.
310– 313		The authors mention HGB and HCT falling below reference in confined lambs but fail to suggest practical interventions. Propose adding a sentence on "dietary iron enrichment or partial grazing access as potential strategies."
	Conclusion	This conclusion is too general. Strengthen by stating "These findings suggest wheat stubble grazing may improve RBC indices in pregnant ewes and that restricted housing negatively impacts lamb haematology post-weaning."
	All tables	Provide standard deviation, sample size per group, and whether values shown are adjusted means (LSM). Tables lack this clarity.
	References	A few DOIs are in line while others are hyperlinked. Ensure DOI formatting is consistent.