INTRODUCTION
Goats comprise a very important source of income for many Omanis, and are preferred for meat consumption. There are three economically important goat breeds in Oman, named after their local regions: Jabal Akhdar (JA), Batina (BAT) and Dofari (DOF). Copper deficiency is an endemic problem in local livestock. Copper deficiency is known to cause many deleterious economical effects in goats including reduced growth rate (Osman et al, 2008), ataxia (Ivans, et al., 1990) and low haemoglobin concentration (Oman, et al., 2009). Low Cu plasma levels were reported in the three breeds of goats in intensive management system (Osman, et al, 2003) and in grazing livestock (Ivans, et al, 1990).

RESULTS
145 out of the 187 goats studied (i.e. 77.5%) were sub-clinically low or deficient in serum copper. Within breeds none of the Batina goats were within the normal levels (Fig. 4). This reflected on the means of serum copper (mg/l) of all breeds which ranged from low to deficient, (Fig. 5). Batina had significantly lower levels than Jabal Akhdar and Dofari. There was no significant effect (P>0.05) of age or sex or their interaction on serum Cu levels in Omani goats.

MATERIALS AND METHODS
Blood samples were collected from 184 goats of the

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS
This study indicated that subclinical Cu deficiency in Omani goats may be prevalent in geographical regions covered in this study. That may indicate that any measurements which could have been followed by goat owners for alleviation of copper deficiency appeared to be inadequate. The copper source given to these goats, the saltlick, was also not enough when used for growing kids (Osman, et al, 2003) or camels (Osman, 2012). Low copper, high iron and/or high sulphur and elevated molybdenum dietary levels were found in feeds offered to goats in previous studies in Oman (Ivans, et al, 1990; Osman, et al., 2003).

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FURTHER COMMUNICATIONS
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