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Title of the presentation

Milk recording in sheep and goats:
state of the art using the data from
the ICAR on-line yearly survey

Presenter: Jean-Michel Astruc, IDELE, France
E-mail: Jean-Michel.Astruc@idele.fr

Session: New developments in Sheep, Goat and Camelids within ICAR

Authors: Jean-Michel Astruc Antonello Carta Riccardo Negrini Mojca Simcic Marija Spehar
Eva Ugarte Cesare Mosconi

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ABSTRACT

From the nineties, the working groups in charge of small ruminants in ICAR carried out surveys on topics related to milk recording and breeding programs in sheep and goats. These surveys were manual from 1988 to 2006, before being replaced by a yearly on-line questionnaire available to accept submission of data from ICAR countries having an activity in the field of dairy sheep and goats recording. This paper aims to analyse the evolution of milk recording in sheep and goats over the years, using the database (developed and maintained with the help of ICAR Secretariat) updated by the responses from the on-line surveys. The database includes data on milk recording activities (by countries and by breeds), milk recording designs, average milk yield per lactation, recording devices, breeding schemes and selection criteria, molecular information in sheep and goats. The valorisation of the on-line survey constitutes one of the main terms of reference of the sheep, goats and camelids working group and a synthesis is regularly presented at the working group meeting. An overlook of the main evolutions of the milk recording activities in sheep and goats are presented, over the last 35 years. Ten to twelve countries filled out the questionnaire in each species. The number of animals in official milk recording reached 890,000 ewes and 410,000 does in 2021. In the large populations of Mediterranean countries, the impact of qualitative recording remains low, due to its cost. Use of simplified designs, which has been recommended by the working group has strongly increased over the years to exceed 90%.

Keywords: dairy sheep, dairy goats, milk recording, recommendations :



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