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Title of the presentation

Wool recording in sheep: results from an ICAR on-line survey

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

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ABSTRACT

The ICAR Sheep, Goats and Camelids Working Group (SGC WG), based on breeders' organizations interest, agreed to include wool performance recording into its guidelines. Therefore, the SGC WG has created an Expert Advisory Group with the objectives to determine the traits of interest, their collecting and genetic evaluation. In order to achieve these objectives, breeding organisations responsible for sheep recording have been invited to fulfil an on-line survey on sheep wool. The survey consists of basic information's such as breeding organisation contact data, as well as specific questions regarding the population (size of wool sheep population, number of farms and number of animals under wool recording), information about the breeds population - main and additional breeds (size of population, population in performance recording on wool, number of farms with performance recording on wool), information about recorded traits, method and protocols of phenotyping, genetic evaluation, selection indices. Additional relevant data on management of animals (e.g., shearing) were also collected in the survey. All together, seventeen breeding organizations have responded to the on-line survey. Number of animals included in the wool recording by country ranged from 200 to 2,900K. As expected, the most common breed in wool recording was Merino, followed by Dohne Merino and local breeds. The traits described are fleece weight, clean fleece weight or yield, fiber diameter, fiber diameter variation, staple length, staple strength, homogeneity of fleece, fibre density, fibre curvature, color, visual appreciation, and additional traits. Among them, the most recorded phenotypes were fiber diameter, staple length, fleece weight, fiber diameter variation, visual appreciation, and color. The survey results gave a useful insight in wool recording and will be the basis for guidelines writing. :

