



<b>Event</b>	Montreal (CA), ICAR 2022 Annual Conference	<b>Title of the presentation</b>
<b>Subject</b>	Abstract presented manuscript as ORAL presentation	The implementation of standard lactation and standard milking length in the milk recording of dairy sheep and goats breeds in Slovenia

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

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**Title of the presentation:** The implementation of standard lactation and standard milking length in the milk recording of dairy sheep and goats breeds in Slovenia

## **ABSTRACT**

The aim of the study was to introduce the standard lactation and standard milking length in milk recording of Slovenian dairy sheep and goats breeds in breeding programs to achieve better comparability among animals within the same breed in the milk production traits (total milk yield and contents of protein, fat and lactose). Dairy sheep breeds in Slovenia are two local breeds, Bovec sheep and Istrian Pramenka, as well as Improved Bovec sheep, while dairy goats are local Drežnica goat, and two locally adapted breeds Slovenian Alpine goat and Slovenian Saanen goat. According to the recommendations in ICAR guidelines, every approved organisation should define the lactation length (and/or standard milking length) which is close to the average lactation length (milking length) of the considered breed according to the production system. At first, average age at weaning of offspring (beginning of milking) and average duration of milking period (end of milking) were calculated. Based on these calculations the beginning and the end of standard lactation (standard milking length) were defined. Due to two different production systems of Slovenian Alpine goat and Slovenian Saanen goat, animals of both breeds were divided in two subpopulations. In the first one, where kids are early weaned (till the 5th day of age) it was determined that standard lactation lasts from the day of kidding to 240th day after kidding in both breeds. In the second subpopulation, where kids are weaned later than the 5th day of age (late weaning), we defined a standard milking length from 40th to 240th day after kidding. In the case of Drežnica goat and all Slovenian dairy sheep breeds early weaning practically does not exist. Consequently, only a standard milking length was defined. The standard milking length in Drežnica goat, Bovec sheep and Improved Bovec sheep was agreed in the period from 40th to 210th day after giving birth, while in the case of Istrian Pramenka it lasts from 60th to 210th day after lambing. In the future, we will continue with monitoring of total milk yield and contents of protein, fat and lactose in the standard lactation and standard milking length according to each breed and adjust if necessary. :



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