Spanish dairy sheep breeds associations were granted with the ICAR Certificate of Quality

Jean-Michel Astruc *
F. Freire, R. Gallego, T. Lopez, L. Mintegi, E. Couto, F. Tejerina, C. Diaz

* Institut de l’Elevage / French Livestock Institute - Toulouse, France

Session 13
Toledo, Spain - Wednesday, May 24, 2023 - 14:00-15:30
Outline

- Audited organisations
- Background on Spanish dairy sheep breeds applying for the ICAR CoQ
- Running the audit: initial agenda and necessary reorganisation due to Covid
- Conclusions and main experiences as an auditor
FEAGAS = Federation of the Spanish breeding organisations

FEAGAS is the only Spanish member of ICAR

2021: first application for ICAR CoQ

CoQ for beef cattle

CoQ for dairy sheep
Associations / breeds concerned by the CoQ

Asociación Nacional de Criadores de Ganado Ovino de Raza Assaf

Asociación Nacional de Criadores de Ganado Ovino Selecto de Raza Churra

Confederación de Asociaciones de Criadores de Ovinos de Raza Lacha y Carranza

Asociación Nacional de Criadores de Ganado Ovino Selecto de Raza Manchega
Location of associations / breeds concerned by the CoQ

ANCHE (Churra)

CONFELAC (Latxa/Karranzana)

ASSAFE (Assaf)

AGRAMA (Manchega)
Some statistics on dairy sheep recording in Spain

- Spain is the first country in terms of official milk recording in sheep, before France and Italy
- 15% of the ewes are recorded
Some statistics on dairy sheep recording in Spain

Recorded females in the main breeds (within countries)

The audited associations manage some of the largest dairy sheep breeds
### Field of activities audited

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Planned schedule and unexpected event

- First audit, hence visited audit
- Audit planned in October 2020 (one week: 1 day per association + 1 feedback in Madrid)
- Due to Covid: decision (September) to cancel the visits
- Practical adaptation required between local organisations, ICAR and auditors
  - Keep the dates for remote interviews (video conference) based on questionnaire
  - Report the visits as soon as pandemics allows (actually October 2021 – 1 week)
2020: remote interviews

- Four 3-hrs-meetings in videoconference, with each of the four associations audited, within the same week, to review the documents sent by the associations.
- One association was audited per day
- Documents received prior to the meeting, reviewed with the associations (for each association, several persons were present to deal with the various activities of the audit).

2 outputs:
- the documents were updated accordingly so that the documents were more complete and more precise for preparing the visited audit.
- A first general report (covering all associations) was produced for FEAGAS to get a first feedback. This feedback, shared with the associations, was useful during the visited audit the next year.
Interest to get a vision of the ecosystem in which the breed association works

The different associations work with different organisations (milk recording, genotypings, milk analyses laboratories, genetic evaluation)

The strong organisation by region in Spain produces specificities for each association / breed.

The auditor felt the necessity to get a pictorial summary of the ecosystem

Example: pictorial summary of CONFELAC ecosystem
Remote presentation of dairy sheep genetics and genomics in France

To conclude the week:

Auditoría ICAR España
Ovino de leche

Organización de la mejora genética del ovino de leche en Francia

Aplicación de la selección genómica en los programas de mejora genéticos del ovino lechero en Francia

Jean-Michel Astruc
9 de Octubre 2020

A good way to better know each other and to exchange on one of the hot topic that drove the CoQ in Spanish dairy sheep
Second and final step: visited audits

- 4-8 October 2021 (1 yr after remote audit)
- 1 day per association
  - Participation at an on-farm milk recording (Churra, Assaf, Manchega), visit of AI centre (Latxa, Assaf)
  - In the office (~3 hrs / association):
    - Reviewing the whole process, going through the documents again (clarification, complements, discussion)
    - Questions and answers, including pending issues following 2020 remote audit
  - Strong commitment of each association
- A working dinner in Madrid with INIA and Ministry of Agriculture
Conclusions and main experiences as an auditor

- The four associations were granted the ICAR CoQ.
- The reorganisation of the schedule of the visited audit due to Covid did not prevent from processing the audit. Unexpectedly, it allowed a better understanding of the different processes (but, by spending more time !)
- All the possible fields of activity were audited, hence a global understanding of the selection activity.
- As identification is submitted to EU legislation in sheep and goats, auditing this field is not really useful.
- As an auditor: beyond the obvious specific interest of the CoQ for the associations, feeling of mutual inputs (“I learned a lot + I shared my experience”).
Conclusions and main experiences as an auditor

- Each association has its own organisation, its own material, its own scope of activities, its own ecosystem ⇒ CoQ is given to each association and not to the Spanish umbrella. All associations were worth being audited, given specificities.

- Long process to audit 4 dairy sheep associations.

- Considering only small ruminants, for including dairy goats and meat sheep, audit process should be 3 times longer.

- The ICAR audit was an opportunity to tackle the shift towards genomic selection in dairy sheep and to try to pursue a common thinking across breeds to share some tools (chips, management of genotypes, ...).
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Thank you for your attention!