



THE GLOBAL STANDARD
FOR LIVESTOCK DATA



Network. Guidelines. Certification.

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

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Session 13

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



ICAR 2023
TOLEDO **SPAIN**

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



REAL
FEDERACIÓN
ESPAÑOLA
DE ASOCIACIONES
DE GANADO SELECTO

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



RFEAGAS
ORGANIZACIONES



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

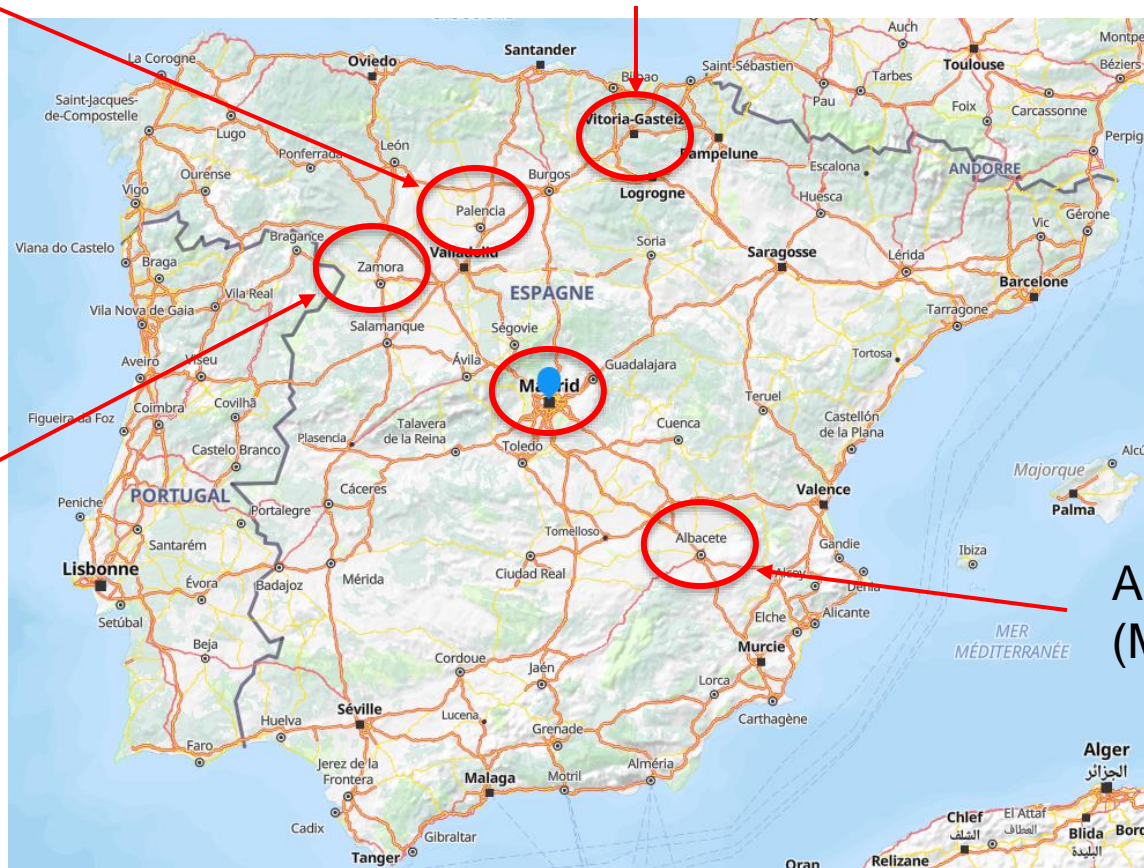
Location of associations / breeds concerned by the CoQ

ANCHE
(Churra)

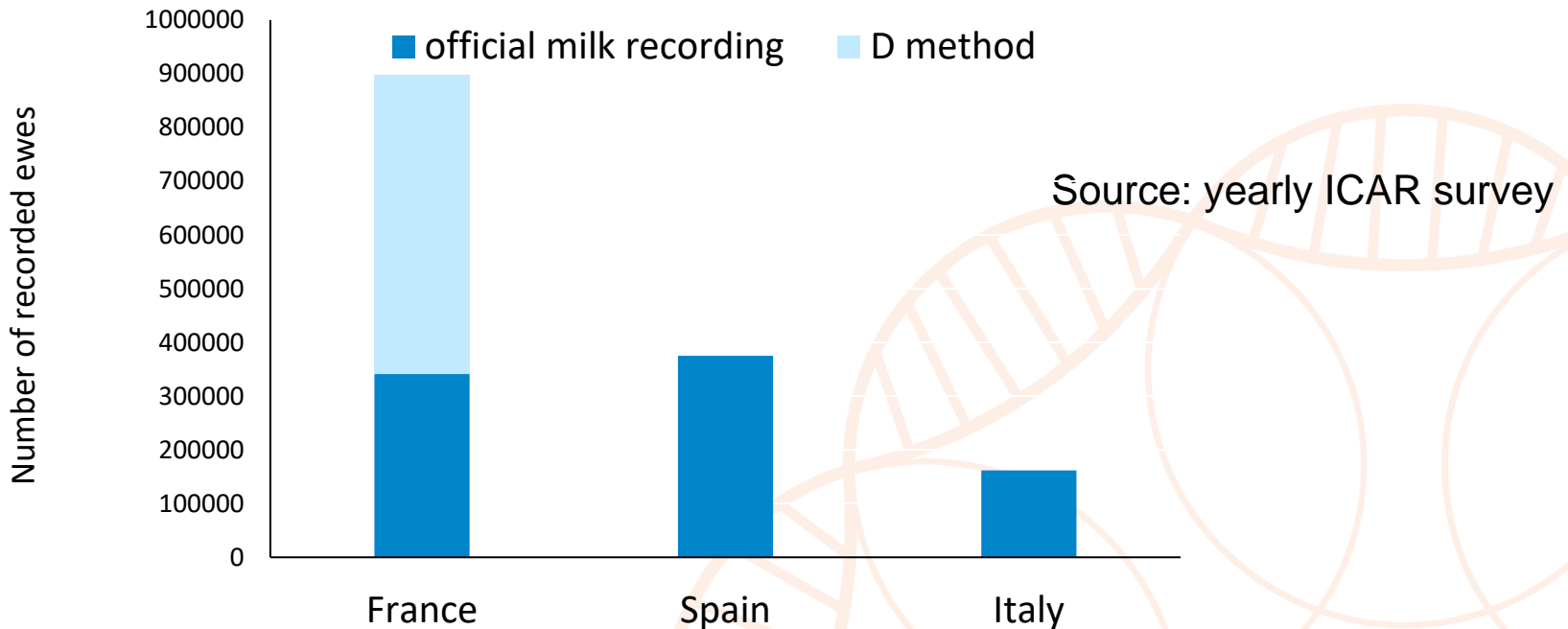
CONFELAC
(Latxa/Karranzana)

ASSAFE
(Assaf)

AGRAMA
(Manchega)

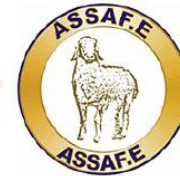
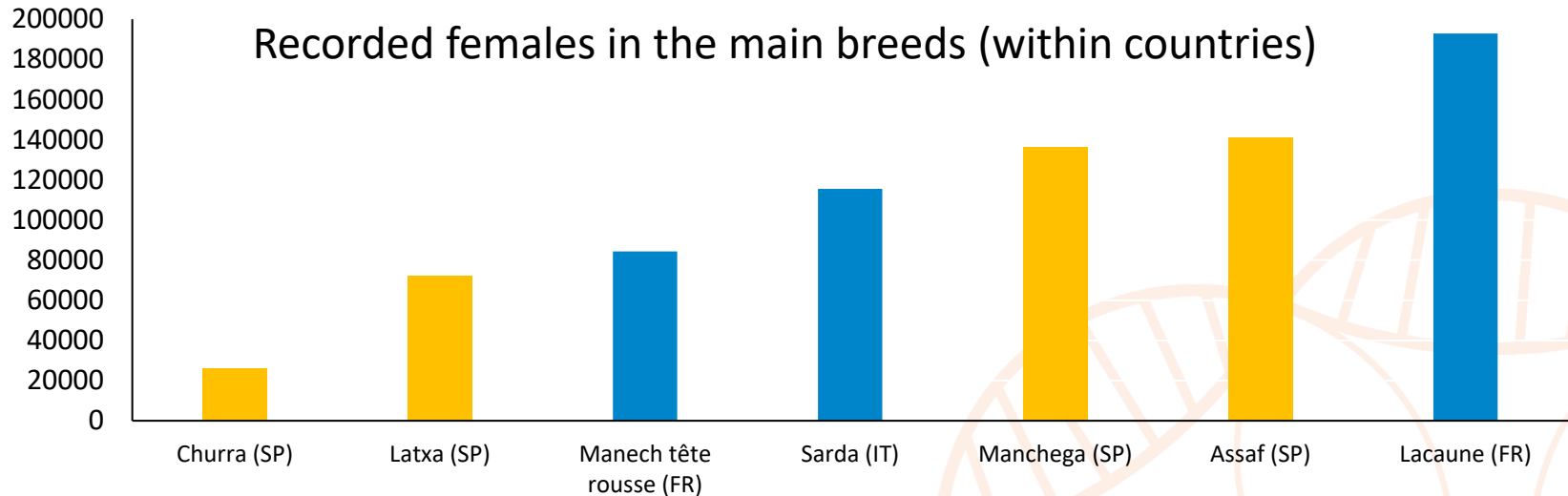


Some statistics on dairy sheep recording in Spain



- 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



The audited associations manage some of the largest dairy sheep breeds

Field of activities audited

Fields of activity audited:

○ ID	Animal identification (cattle)	_____
○ IO	Animal identification (other species)	__X__
○ PD	Milk recording (cattle)	_____
○ PB	Beef recording (cattle)	_____
○ MLRO	Milk recording (other species)	__X__
○ MTRO	Meat recording (other species)	_____
○ PRO	Production recording (other traits)	_____
○ HB	<u>Herdbook</u> recording	__X__
○ LC	Conformation recording	__X__
○ DP	Data processing	__X__
○ LM	Laboratory analysis (milk)	_____
○ RM	Reference laboratory (milk)	_____
○ LG	Laboratory analysis (DNA)	_____
○ GD	Genetic evaluation (dairy cattle)	_____
○ GB	Genetic evaluation (beef cattle)	_____
○ GO	Genetic evaluation (other species)	__X__

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

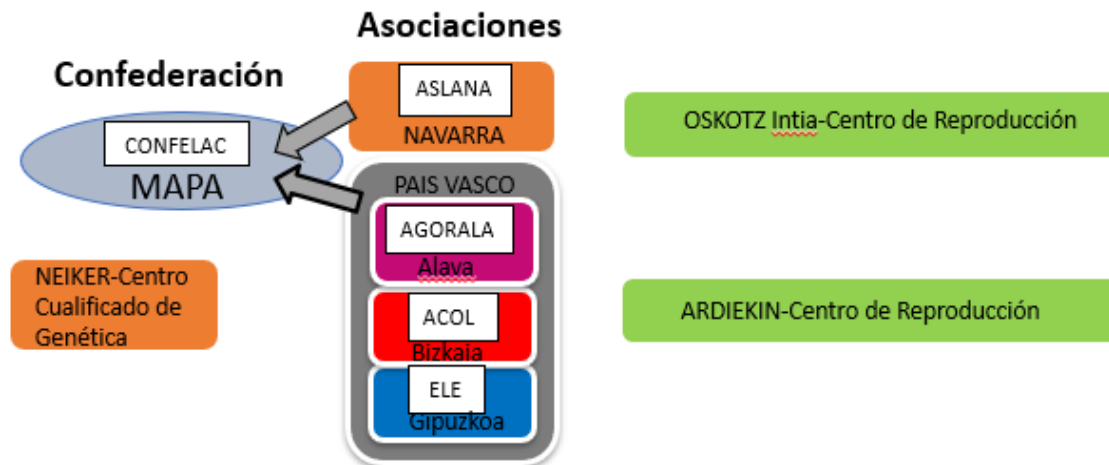
- Four 3-hrs-meetings in videoconference, with each of the four associations audited, within the same week, to review the documents sent by the associations.
- One association was audited per day
- Documents received prior to the meeting, reviewed with the associations (for each association, several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

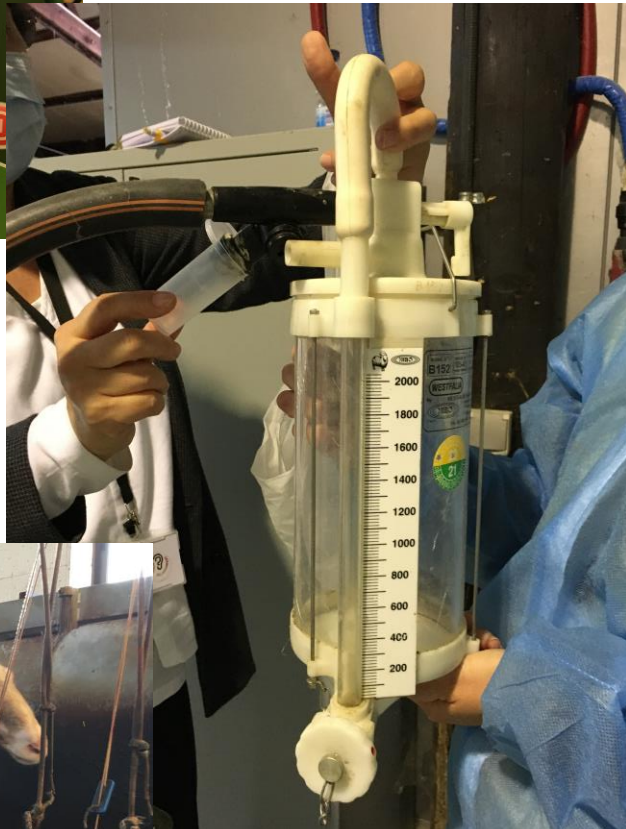
Aplicación de la selección genómica en los
programas de mejora genéticos del ovino
lechero en Francia

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 par 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!