

REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON MILK RECORDING OF SHEEP



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35th ICAR Session, Kuopio, Finland, 2006



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Working Group Members

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Meeting of the WG on 6 June 2006



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Terms of reference

- **Yearly enquiry on-line to replace biennial survey on paper**
Follow and stimulate ICAR recommendations
- **Updating ICAR Guidelines (section 2.2)**
ICAR rules, standards and guidelines for milk recording in sheep
No emendation this year
- **Co-operation with relevant SC and WG of ICAR**
- **Contact with non ICAR organizations**



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Yearly enquiry on-line



Implemented in close cooperation between the WG and the ICAR secretariat

Accept submission of data since early May

Can be reached from www.icar.org



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Yearly enquiry on-line

PURPOSE

- Provide official figures to ICAR
- Establish the state of the art on different topics related to the terms of reference of the WG

Aim : increase the impact of milk recording in sheep in order to implement breeding schemes

Means : simplify the recording designs : milk yield, qualitative recording, functional traits



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Yearly enquiry on-line

France

- [Table 1. Basic information on population, recording methods and percentages](#)
- [Table 2. Milk yield, type of lactation calculation \(quantity of milk\) + Milk yield results \(quantity of milk\)](#)
- [Table 3. Optional tests for milk composition](#)
- [Table 4. Recording of non-milking traits](#)
- [Table 5. Milk recording equipment used in case of machine milking](#)
- [Table 6. Breeding program using artificial insemination](#)
- [Table 7. Molecular information](#)

7 tables to be filled in
Table 1 "obligatory". Other tables "optional"

Output

A yearly report will be done and will be available (on the ICAR site and/or as a booklet)

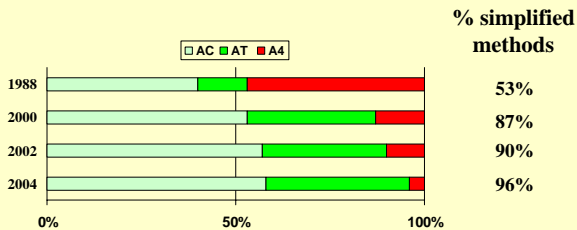


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Simplification of Milk recording

Milk yield : increasing use of simplified (AT or AC) methods



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Simplification of Milk recording

Milk quality (optional disposition) :

part-lactation sampling within AC method :
implemented only in France and Italy

AC method : record of 1 of the 2 milkings

Parities 1 (& 2) (X) (X) (X) X X X

A4 method, all ewes — For 100 ewes : 100 x 12 = **1200 samplings**
Part-lactation sampling within AC method, Parities 1 & 2 — For 100 ewes : 60 x 3 = **180 samplings (15 %)**
1 ewe : 4 to 6 test-day in its productive life



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Cooperation within ICAR

⇒ SC Recording devices :

- No device tested and agreed for sheep up to now
- Some devices used in sheep probably not relevant for sheep because lack of accuracy
- For the first time, meters are tested for sheep and goats
- Question : are the guidelines relevant for sheep ? **YES**



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Cooperation within ICAR

⇒ SC Recording devices :

- Why are the guidelines relevant for sheep ?
 - Limits of error twice higher in sheep/goats than in cattle, given that : Fat% (sheep) = 2 x Fat% (cattle/goats)
 - Simplification of recording design (2 to 3 measures per animal in first lactation) not compatible with a too low accuracy of the measure



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Cooperation within ICAR

⇒ SC Milk testing laboratories :

- Same issue than for recording devices : laboratory analysis must be accurate enough, meaning specific calibration for each species, in order to compensate the low number of measures



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Conclusion

- **SIMPLIFICATION = KEY POINT** for **COST-EFFECTIVENESS** of **MILK RECORDING** in **SHEEP**
 - milk yield recording : commonly used
 - milk quality recording: purpose of the next decade ?
 - Few measures ⇒ Each measure must be accurate**
- Increasing concern in **FUNCTIONAL TRAITS** (disease resistance, udder morphology).
- Dairy sheep **ENQUIRY ON-LINE** : a yearly report will be **proposed**



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