REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON MILK RECORDING OF SHEEP

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Working Group Members

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Meeting of the WG on 6 June 2006
35th ICAR Session, Kuopio, Finland, 2006

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

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

Accept submission of data since early May
Can be reached from www.icar.org

3 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)
Simplification of Milk recording

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>AT</th>
<th>AC</th>
<th>% simplified methods</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1988</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>106%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>174%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>180%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>192%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

A4 method, all ewes

- For 100 ewes: 100 x 12 = 1200 samplings
- For 100 ewes: 60 x 3 = 180 samplings (15 %)

Parities 1 & 2

- 1 ewe: 4 to 6 test-day in its productive life

Part-lactation sampling within AC method, parities 1 & 2

- For 100 ewes: 60 x 3 = 180 samplings (15 %)

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

- **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

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