

REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON MILK RECORDING OF SHEEP

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37th ICAR Session, Riga, Latvia, 2010

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Working Group Members

J.M. Astruc		France	(Chairperson)
Z. Barac	(new)	Croatia	
F. Barillet		France	
A. Carta		Italy	
E. Gootwine		Israel	
D. Kompan		Slovenia	
F.J. Romberg		Germany	
A. Tondo	(new)	Italy	
E. Ugarte		Spain	

Meetings of the WG → 17 June 2008
→ 1st June 2010

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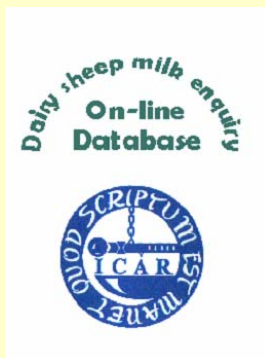
Terms of reference : **main items**

Prepare updates for relevant appendices of the International Agreement of Recording Practices	▪ Guidelines
Advise Board and Secretary General	
Prepare & analyze survey	▪ Yearly enquiry
Stimulate new developments and report on new equipment, procedures and methods	
Co-operation with relevant WG, SC and TF of ICAR	▪ Cooperation within ICAR
Keep contact with non ICAR organizations or persons in the field of competence	▪ Contact with non-ICAR organization in the dairy sheep field
Report on the activities ... Communication	

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Yearly enquiry on-line



From May 2006

Follow and stimulate ICAR recommendations

Provide official figures to ICAR

Biennial report (report from 2010 data available on the ICAR site)

Raw data available on the ICAR site

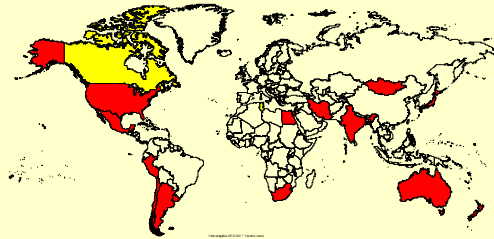
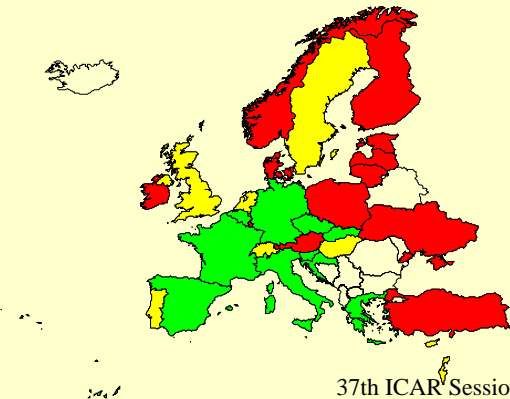
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Yearly enquiry on-line

Green : ICAR countries having submitted data to the database since 2008

Yellow : ICAR countries having answering the survey at least once between 1988 and 2008



ONLY 10 submissions in 2008-2010

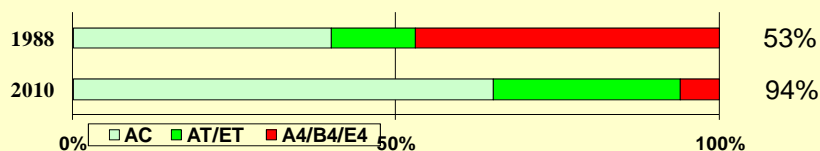
Remind regularly the countries

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Main features of milk recording in sheep

- 1,209,000 ewes submitted to official milk recording on the whole
- Italy, France, Spain represent 89%
- Milk yield : increasing use of simplified (AT or AC) methods



- Qualitative recording : concerns 21% of all recorded ewes. Simplified design has been promoted. **Relevant for genetic purpose. Not compatible with too low accuracy of measure.**

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Co-operation within ICAR

⇒ SC on Recording Devices

- **Recurrent question : are the guidelines relevant for sheep ?**

2 (on-farm) meters have passed
ICAR tests in the last 3 years.
It is possible !!

Considering (very) simplified
methods in sheep : low number of
measures per animal. Each
measure must be accurate

**The working group considers
the requirements are relevant
and must not be relaxed**

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Guidelines

⇒ Include udder morphology

Change the name of the section 2.2 (milk recording
in sheep → recording in dairy sheep)

Purpose : to be informative (and not normative) = general
principle, different traits that could be scored, existing tables

⇒ Cope with some situations where the guidelines cannot be met

Large size flocks having a part of the ewes registered (and
recorded) and another part non-registered

Part of the flock milked twice a day, other part milked once a day

Conclusion

- Guidelines : udder traits, adaptation, glossary
- Dairy sheep on-line enquiry : raw data + synthetic report from 2010 available on the ICAR site
- Co-operation within ICAR : Recording and analysis devices : keep enough accuracy to be relevant with simplification of the recording designs