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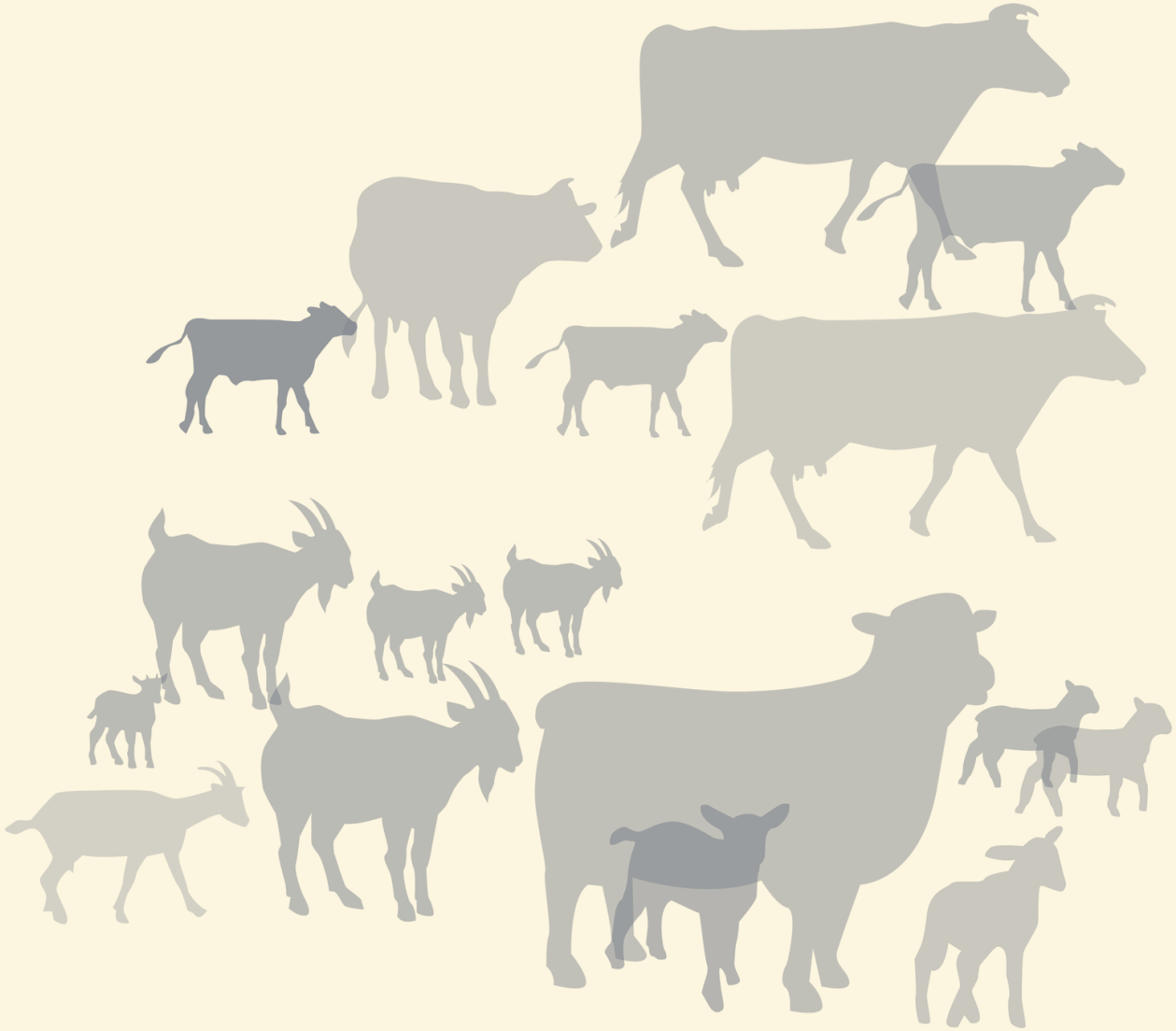
Milk recording results

Sheep

France - Year 2025



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Introduction

The research and development process in genetic improvement of dairy sheep successively dealt with productivity of ewes and herds (during the 70s and 80s), chemical milk composition and its suitability for cheese production (during the 80s and 90s), finally functional abilities such as resistance to subclinical mastitis and udder morphology (2000 decade). These functional characteristics enable the animals' functional longevity to be improved. This improvement matches with their ability to postpone their culling for other reasons than those linked with their milk yield level. In other words, functional longevity contributes to have flocks with a better cost-effectiveness, not by increasing takings, but by decreasing production costs through reduced early culling. Genomics has been fully involved during these last years in dairy sheep breeding schemes with, on one hand, the selection for resistance to scrapie thanks to the genetic typing of the PrP gene widely implemented right at the beginning of the 2000s, on the other hand genomic breeding prospects which are subject to Roquefort'in (Lacaune breed) and Genomia (Pyrenean dairy sheep breeds – Manech and Basco-Béarnaise) programmes. Since 2015 (choice of young rams at the end of 2014), Lacaune breed implemented a genomic selection with a new scheme design.

The genetic improvement of dairy sheep within the three French traditional breeding areas ("Rayon"de Roquefort, Pyrénées-Atlantiques, Corse) is based on the breeding of local breeds within their own production area and systems. This principle is strengthened by the French AOC label (which guarantees the origin of a product) of each area. This label requires the local breed as the genetic material to be used for the cheese production of Roquefort (Lacaune breed), of Issau-Iraty (Basco-Béarnaise and Manech breeds) and Brucciu (Corse breed). The implementation of dairy sheep breeding programmes is based on milk recording and progeny testing of animal insemination rams. It has systematically been well-reasoned in order to increase its efficiency-cost ratio

Pyramidal structure of the population

Breeds' population is organized on the basis of a pyramidal structure made up of breeders, creators of the genetic gain and farmers using genetic gain, in order to select the local breeds in population-wide terms. Selection tools are gathered in flocks of breeders who are registered at the official milk recording organizations. These tools include qualitative recording and breeding animals' qualification with possibly udder scoring. Breeding flocks serve as a testing medium and provide the breeding centers with young rams. Testing has been developed in order to maximize breeding schemes. The effort required for its implementation is considerable as (depending on the breeds) 50 to 60 % of the inseminated ewes within a flock under breeding are inseminated with tested rams. Breeders receive as compensation inseminations with the elite rams, i.e. the sires of the breed's rams. If they wish it, the breeders who use the genetic gain may receive a simplified milk recording. Its objective is firstly to get a within-flock ranking of the ewes, but also the technical monitoring of the dairy flock.

Rationalization and optimization over the time

Breeding objectives have been planned gradually. Official milk recording implemented in the 60s was at the beginning only a quantitative control (milk yield) due to the industry needs of milk on one hand, and because of the low initial productivity of the French local breeds on the other hand. The first objective was clearly to increase ewes' productivity. The breeding criteria taken in consideration was the milk yield during the milking period which steps up fat and protein contents quantities, and thereby cheese quantities.

Such an objective may be accepted during the start-up period of the breeding scheme. However, when this objective is fully operational and becomes completely effective (in the 80s for the Lacaune breed, in the 90s – 2000s for the Pyrenean breeds), the milk quality (fat and protein contents) deteriorates on a genetic level speaking. Thus, it is becoming essential to be interested in the chemical quality of the milk also in order to know about cheese yield and the fat/dry ratio of cheese in the framework of AOC cheese produced with raw milk and whole milk. That's why a qualitative recording was to be performed, although it is difficult and expensive to implement in dairy sheep because of the flocks' size and the rapid mechanical milking routines.

Finally, when the context of the industry was such as productivity was no longer directly looked for, breeders became then interested in functional characteristics which are going to enable to decrease production costs and to improve work conditions, especially milking conditions which represent the first work station of dairy ewes' breeding.

Today, farmers and stakeholders of selection schemes raise the question of hardiness and plasticity and evoke the wish to work on resistance to gastro intestinal parasitism, dairy persistency, ability to one-milking per day, feed efficiency, but also the ability to transhumance and at the valorization of rangelands.

Milk recording simplification

The official AC design (monthly recording of one of the two daily milkings, whatever the milking) has been widespread. The qualitative recording has been even more simplified. Only a part of the ewes is recorded: the primiparous (Pyrenean breeds) or the first two lactations (Lacaune breed). Only the middle of the lactation is controlled, because it is the most representative period from a genetic point of view. Thus, the objective is to carry out three samples at the first four test-days of the ewe during the morning milking. The morning milking enables a better milk sampling, especially of the fat content and somatic cells. The partial recording as described here above enables to save about 85% of the samplings and analyses in order to get an efficiency a bet lower (the loss of precision may easily be compensated for rams by increasing the testing daughters' number by about 10%), compared to the exhaustive A4 recording method (on a monthly rhythm for the two daily milkings and for all the ewes on milking). This process is also systematically used for functional characteristics.

Table 1 : Evolution of the main criteria related to breeding schemes for the 3 French breeding areas

		Official milk recording (OMR)				Simplified milk recording (SMR)
		Number of recorded ewes (% of the OMR population)	AI rate in the nucleus	Number of progeny-tested rams	Milk yield in liters (lactation duration)	Number of recorded ewes
1985	Nord-Occit	113 519 (17%)	70%	430	186 (162)	311 000
	Pyrénées	38 026 (12%)	30%	52	92 (127)	13 000
	Corse	7 300 (7%)			88 (151)	
2005	Nord-Occit	176 936 (21%)	81%	477	277 (163)	585 000
	Pyrénées	108 836 (23%)	55%	200	158 (146)	32 000
	Corse	20 408 (20%)	39%	40	124 (181)	
2020	Nord-Occit	189 147 (17%)	87%	319	339 (174)	505 457
	Pyrénées	121 136 (28%)	48%	278	231 (156)	38 026
	Corse	20 157 (24%)	36%	17	149 (189)	13 446
2021	Nord-Occit	192 923 (19%)	88%	297	346 (176)	483 869
	Pyrénées	123 388 (28%)	47%	262	239 (159)	38 532
	Corse	18 860 (22%)	35%	21	153 (188)	9 397
2022	Nord-Occit	197 817 (19%)	87%	309	346 (176)	480 299
	Pyrénées	124 878 (28%)	47%	284	234 (160)	37 580
	Corse	18 403 (22%)	38%	20	153 (189)	9 856
2023	Nord-Occit	200 700 (21%)	87%	326	357 (177)	476 653
	Pyrénées	120 920 (27%)	47%	254	230 (159)	32 730
	Corse	17 992 (21%)	38%	21	144 (187)	7 775
2024	Nord-Occit	205 126 (22%)	86%	317	349 (179)	467 257
	Pyrénées	117 257 (26%)	45%	254	226 (158)	33 412
	Corse	16 137 (20%)	37%	19	154 (187)	11 318
2025	Nord-Occit	209 692 (23%)	86%	329	367 (180)	464 931
	Pyrénées	120 850 (27%)	47%	248	234 (160)	30 156
	Corse	15 230 (20%)	39%	22	154 (181)	11 286

Data processing

Annual results of the sheep official milk recording are calculated from an extract of the French national dairy sheep database used for indexing and research, which is part of the SIEOL Information System. This extract was performed at the end of the dairy sheep year in December 2025. Thus, these results concern the year 2025. Regarding the seasonality of the dairy sheep production in France, all lactations are considered as finished and qualified if they are calculated.

The results are presented by breeding area, French local administrative area (=French "département"), Milk Recording Organization (MRO), Performance Testing organization and by breed. Here are the definitions of these terms:

Breeding areas: 1 = 'Rayon de Roquefort' ; 2 = 'Corse' ; 3 = 'Pyrénées-Atlantiques'.
French local administrative areas: 11, 12, 2A, 2B, 30, 34, 48, 64, 65, 81, 82.
Milk Recording Organizations (=MRO): 'CDEO', 'Confédération Générale de Roquefort', 'EDE 48', 'EDE 81', 'EDE 82', 'SCP 30-34', 'SUAE Corse du Sud', 'SUAE Haute-Corse', 'UNOTEC 12'.
Recognized Performance Recording Organizations (=RPRO): 'CDEO', 'OS Lacaune', 'EDE 82', 'SUAE Corse du Sud', 'SUAE Haute-Corse'.
Breeds: 'Lacaune', 'Manech tête rousse', 'Manech tête noire', 'Basco-Béarnaise', 'Corse'. Other breeds representing less than 50 ewes nationwide are not taken into account in these results.

NB : In paragraphs 2.2 to 2.6, maps only show French local administrative areas where at least 10 lactations haven been calculated for the corresponding breed.

Warning:
Results between breeds or populations (Basco-Béarnaise, Corse, Lacaune, Manech Tête Rousse, Manech Tête Noire) should not be compared, mainly for two reasons:
- Each breed is represented only in one breeding area. Therefore, genetic type and dominant farming system(s) of each French administrative region are closely linked.
- The calculation of milk yield at milking period varies from one region to another (and for breeds accordingly), in relation with the average suckling length, depending on the farming system:
  - 25 days in the area of Roquefort,
  - 35 days in the Pyreneans area and in Corsica.

Some definitions :

Total number of ewes: ewes present in the flock at the beginning of the lambing period.

Number of ewes in lactation: ewes for which calculating a lactation has been possible (so this total takes into account ewes that had at least one test-date with non-null milk production record).

Number of ewes that lambed: ewes with a date of lambing, non-pregnant ewes, aborted ewes without milk and not mated ewe in 1st lactation are therefore excluded from this total.

Lambing rate: number of ewes which lambed divided by the total number of ewes (expressed in %).

Lactation rate: number of ewes with calculation of lactation divided by the number of ewes which lambed (expressed in %).

Milk yield: it represents the milk yield at the milking-only period.
This milk yield is calculated only on the period of exclusive milking of the animal after the weaning of the lamb(s), and doesn't take into account the milk yield during the initial period of suckling or suckling x milking. So the **milking duration** matches only to this milking-only period. The milk yield is expressed in liters and the length in days.

The official milk recording is an AC milk recording protocol, i.e. a monthly control of one of the two daily milkings, without any obligation of rotation. However, the recording occurs mainly in the morning because the sampling for the qualitative control is more precise during the morning milking (more milk in the morning).
Results for fat and protein contents are not provided. The sheep qualitative control is indeed a very simplified control (partial qualitative recording). It is based on a sampling performed only at the milking of the morning, on 3 recordings during the middle of the lactation and it concerns only a part of the flock (the primiparous or the first 2 lactations, depending on the breed). The way of recording and calculating the fat and protein contents are relevant for genetics, but are not representative of current economic reality.

Trends for 2025

The total number of ewes present at the lambing period in 2025 reaches 345,655 ewes, representing an increase of 6,662 ewes (+2%).
At the same time the total number of ewes with lactation calculation increased and reached 289,199 (+2,4 %), ending the downward trend observed for the past two years. 741 flocks are submitted to Official Milk Recording in 2025. That's 9 more than the previous year. Meanwhile, with 466 ewes, the average size of the flock is increasing (+4 ewes).

In 2025, at the national level, the average milk yield per ewe is increasing at 314.9 liters (+13.8 liters) in 174 days of lactation during the milking period.Except for the Corse breed for which the average milk yield per ewe has remained unchanged, the increase milk yield is observed in all other breeds (Lacaune +17.5 liters, Manech Tête Rousse + 7.7 liters, Basco Béarnaise +6.9 liters and Manech Tête Noire +6.7 liters).

A simplified milk recording, corresponding to the D recording method in the ICAR guidelines and not presented in this document, exists in addition to the Official Milk Recording AC design. It concerns commercial flocks out of the selection nucleus (while the Official Milk Recording is devoted only to breeders involved in the selection program). 1,062 flocks and 506,373 ewes present at the lambing period were submitted to D recording in 2025.

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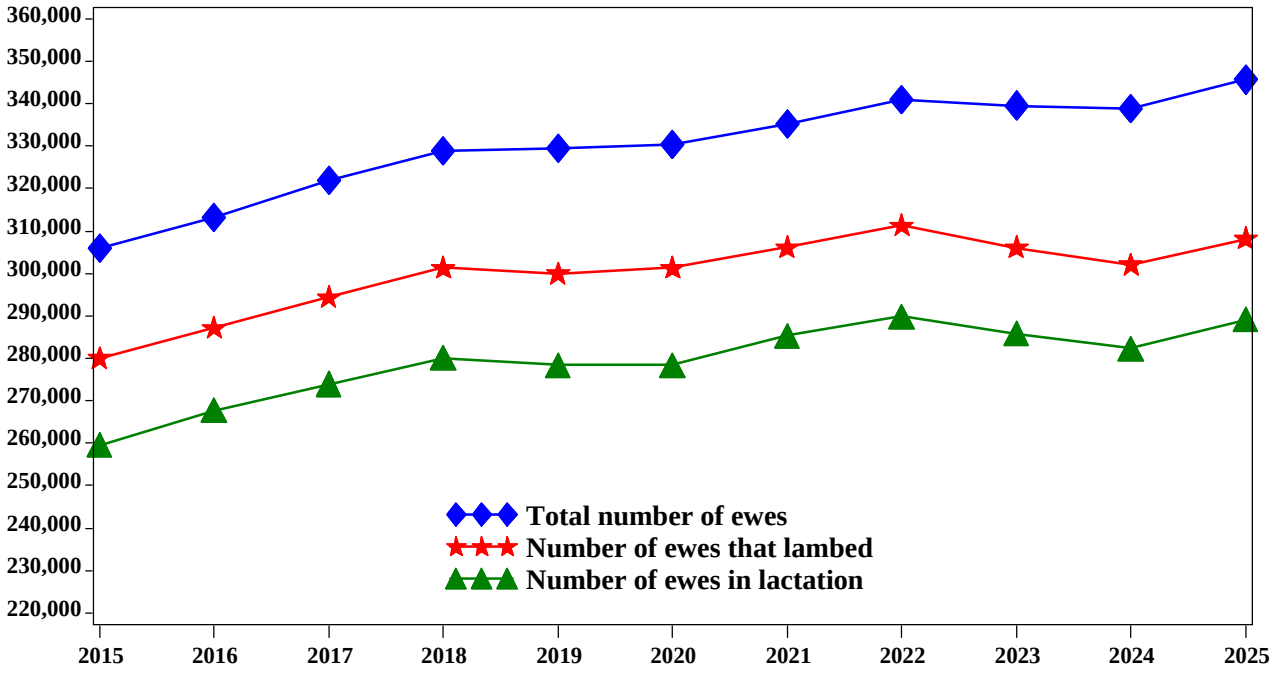
I - GLOBAL RESULTS

1.1 - Reminder of the previous years

Year	Total number of ewes	Number of ewes that lambed	Lambing rate	Number of ewes in lactation	Lactation rate	Milk yield *liters*	Lactation duration *days*
2015	**306,047**	280,001	*91.5*	259,589	*92.7*	256.9	166
2016	**313,291**	287,171	*91.7*	267,737	*93.2*	273.9	166
2017	**321,968**	294,415	*91.4*	274,003	*93.1*	278.6	167
2018	**328,980**	301,292	*91.6*	280,117	*93.0*	284.2	167
2019	**329,394**	299,938	*91.1*	278,423	*92.8*	286.3	169
2020	**330,431**	301,305	*91.1*	278,442	*92.4*	291.6	169
2021	**335,171**	306,167	*91.3*	285,321	*93.2*	299.2	171
2022	**340,981**	311,301	*91.3*	289,921	*93.1*	298.2	172
2023	**339,610**	306,040	*90.1*	285,852	*93.4*	304.6	172
2024	**338,993**	302,020	*89.1*	282,366	*93.5*	301.1	173
2025	**345,655**	308,170	*89.2*	289,199	*93.8*	314.9	174



1.2 - Results of the year

1.2.1 - Distribution by parity

Parity	Total number of ewes	Number of ewes that lambed	Lambing rate	Number of ewes in lactation	Lactation rate	Milk yield *liters*	Lactation duration *days*
1st lactation	**99,994**	79,885	*79.9*	74,523	*93.3*	281.9	163
2nd lactation and over	**245,661**	228,285	*92.9*	214,676	*94.0*	326.4	178
Overall total	**345,655**	**308,170**	**89.1**	**289,199**	**93.8**	**314.9**	**174**

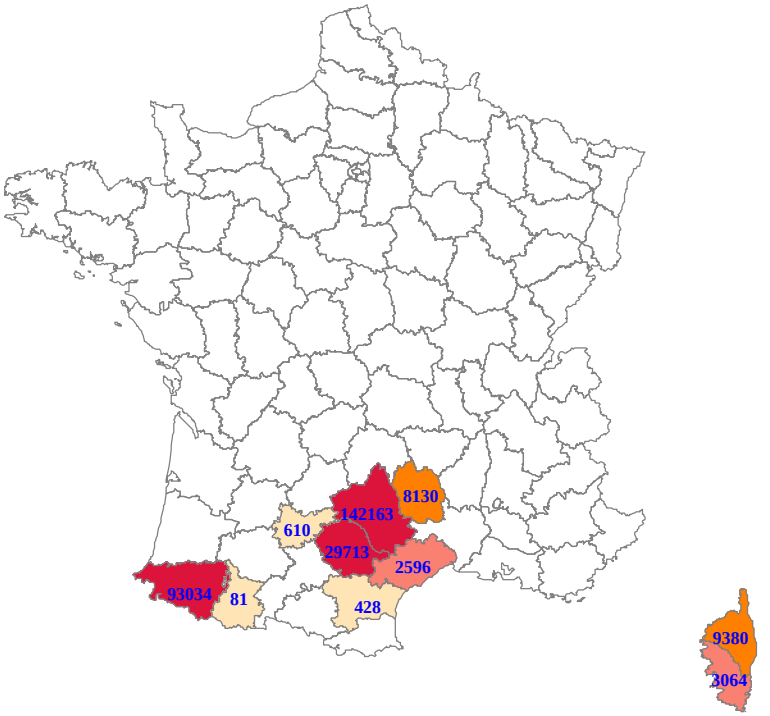
1.2.2 - Number of flocks and average number of ewes per flock

Total number of ewes in lactation	Total number of flocks	Average number of ewes per flock
289,199	741	390.3

1.2.3 - Results per local area

Local area	Number of flocks	Number of ewes in lactation	Milk yield *l*	Lactation duration *d*
Aude	**1**	428	358.0	187
Aveyron	**288**	142,163	368.4	181
Corse du Sud	**21**	3,064	162.6	179
Haute Corse	**32**	9,380	151.4	183
Hérault	**6**	2,596	337.7	175
Lozère	**18**	8,130	348.8	176
Pyrénées Atlantiques	**307**	93,034	234.0	160
Hautes Pyrénées	**1**	81	164.8	163
Tarn	**66**	29,713	368.5	179
Tarn & Garonne	**1**	610	315.8	164
Overall total	**741**	**289,199**	**314.9**	**174**

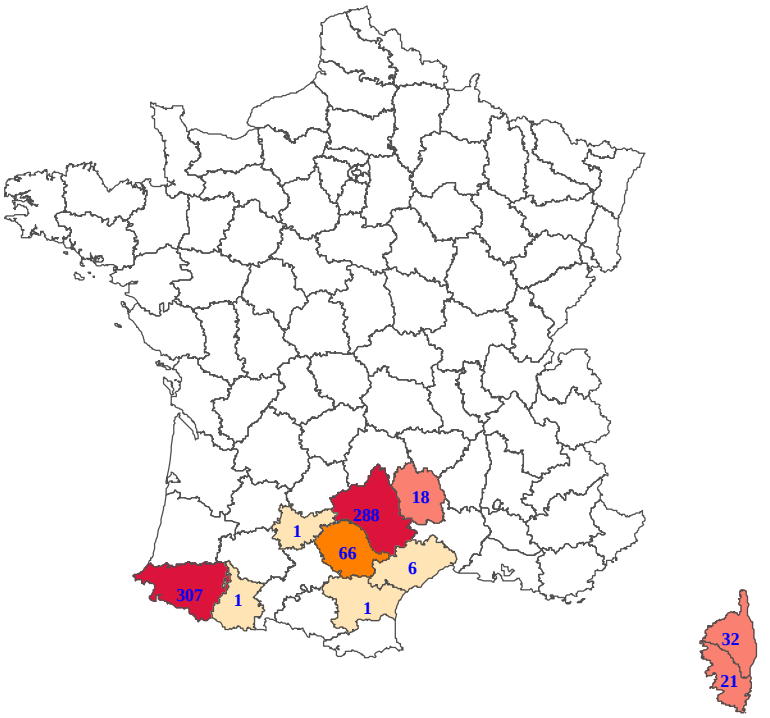
Distribution of lactations per local area (= French « département »)



Number of lactations

<1,000	>=1,000 & <5,000
>=5,000 & <10,000	>=10,000

Distribution of flocks per local area



Number of flocks

<10	>=10 & <50
>=50 & <100	>=100

1.2.4 - Results per breeding area and parity

Breeding area[1]	Parity	Number of ewes in lactation	Milk yield *liters*	Lactation duration *days*
01	1st lactation	50,618	319.6	169
	2nd lactation	40,077	385.0	186
	3rd lactation	32,205	404.1	189
	4th lactation	24,174	398.1	187
	5th lactation	16,769	381.4	184
	6th lactation	10,577	356.5	180
	7th lactation and over	8,814	320.1	172
	Unknown	406	353.1	182
Total breeding area		***183,640***	***366.9***	***181***
02	1st lactation	2,432	111.2	143
	2nd lactation	2,131	154.8	183
	3rd lactation	1,826	172.8	191
	4th lactation	1,577	180.0	198
	5th lactation	1,382	176.9	200
	6th lactation	842	178.0	205
	7th lactation and over	1,517	154.3	192
	Unknown	737	122.1	167
Total breeding area		***12,444***	***154.1***	***182***
03	1st lactation	21,473	212.4	153
	2nd lactation	19,357	243.6	161
	3rd lactation	16,742	253.5	165
	4th lactation	13,351	249.4	165
	5th lactation	9,541	238.5	164
	6th lactation	6,087	223.6	159
	7th lactation and over	5,475	199.1	151
	Unknown	1,089	192.0	149
Total breeding area		***93,115***	***234.0***	***160***
Overall total		**289,199**	**314.9**	**174**

[1]Refer to the Introduction paragraph for details.

1.2.5 - Results per breeding area, parity and month of lambing

Breeding area	Parity	Month of lambing	Number of ewes in lactation	Milk yield *liters*	Lactation duration *days*
01	1st lactation	January	9,957	298.4	159
		February	5,483	267.5	140
		March	2,400	254.8	132
		April	416	177.0	97
		May	101	164.4	79
		June	9	149.2	76
		July	13	380.5	186
		August	1,279	383.4	201
		September	4,224	380.7	198
		October	8,610	353.2	190
		November	12,265	337.5	177
		December	5,861	298.9	160
	2nd lactation and over	January	18,453	372.2	174
		February	8,434	338.6	152
		March	3,395	282.2	133
		April	689	211.7	101
		May	79	145.2	78
		June	34	174.8	84
		July	376	376.0	193
		August	5,918	405.9	198
		September	18,006	405.0	198
		October	38,562	402.1	196
		November	28,778	389.1	188
		December	10,298	370.6	174
Total breeding area			***183,640***	***366.9***	***181***
02	1st lactation	January	507	91.7	116
		February	375	78.6	93
		March	129	42.0	64
		April	13	16.6	34
		May			
		June			
		July			
		August	7	137.0	230
		September	145	155.8	215
		October	459	156.4	193
		November	353	122.3	170
		December	444	113.2	145
	2nd lactation and over	January	610	100.9	115
		February	318	86.7	91
		March	111	53.5	71
		April	9	18.7	29
		May			
		June			
		July			
		August	88	172.2	240
		September	2,900	176.9	216
		October	4,673	177.0	200
		November	1,090	152.8	179
		December	213	144.1	148

[1]Refer to the Introduction paragraph for details.

1.2.5 - Results per breeding area, parity and month of lambing

Breeding area	Parity	Month of lambing	Number of ewes in lactation	Milk yield *liters*	Lactation duration *days*
Total breeding area			***12,444***	***154.1***	***182***
03	1st lactation	January	2,323	192.0	132
		February	2,402	146.1	96
		March	2,088	109.4	71
		April	191	71.5	47
		May	14	46.3	29
		June			
		July			
		August			
		September	14	280.1	186
		October	2,813	257.4	192
		November	7,922	250.1	182
		December	3,706	219.1	162
	2nd lactation and over	January	3,958	220.8	132
		February	3,579	173.8	97
		March	2,887	132.4	71
		April	383	86.3	47
		May	36	44.7	27
		June			
		July			
		August			
		September	9	215.0	180
		October	13,190	256.3	184
		November	36,972	253.0	173
		December	10,628	242.4	158
Total breeding area			***93,115***	***234.0***	***160***
Overall total			**289,199**	**314.9**	**174**

[1]Refer to the Introduction paragraph for details.

1.2.6 - Results per breeding area and flock size

Breeding area	Flock size	Number of flocks	Number of ewes in lactation	Milk yield *liters*	Lactation duration *days*
01	< 200	**3**	529	372.1	171
	>=200 & <250	**10**	2,352	359.5	184
	>=250 & <300	**23**	6,394	359.5	182
	>=300 & <350	**35**	11,366	345.7	179
	>=350 & <400	**55**	20,637	370.2	180
	>=400 & <450	**50**	21,082	365.7	181
	>=450 & <500	**52**	24,693	363.7	184
	>=500 & <550	**43**	22,595	363.7	181
	>=550 & <600	**28**	16,074	384.7	181
	>= 600	**81**	57,918	369.0	179
Total breeding area		***380***	***183,640***	***366.9***	***181***
02	< 200	**32**	4,320	153.6	180
	>=200 & <250	**7**	1,595	150.0	174
	>=250 & <300	**3**	858	152.6	204
	>=300 & <350	**4**	1,280	175.7	189
	>=350 & <400	**3**	1,144	194.4	196
	>=400 & <450	**1**	422	124.7	168
	>= 600	**3**	2,825	136.1	176
Total breeding area		***53***	***12,444***	***154.1***	***182***
03	< 200	**56**	9,326	198.6	153
	>=200 & <250	**57**	12,660	219.1	156
	>=250 & <300	**59**	16,308	238.7	161
	>=300 & <350	**51**	16,406	238.2	163
	>=350 & <400	**31**	11,422	235.5	161
	>=400 & <450	**26**	10,891	246.0	161
	>=450 & <500	**9**	4,275	229.7	156
	>=500 & <550	**4**	2,091	257.1	162
	>=550 & <600	**7**	3,984	268.4	162
	>= 600	**8**	5,752	243.7	162
Total breeding area		***308***	***93,115***	***234.0***	***160***
Overall total		**741**	**289,199**	**314.9**	**174**

[1]Refer to the Introduction paragraph for details.

1.2.7 - Results per milk recording organization (MRO)

MRO	Number of flocks	Number of ewes in lactation	Milk yield *liters*	Lactation duration *days*
CDEO	**308**	93,115	234.0	160
Confédération Générale de Roquefort	**191**	90,609	364.6	181
EDE 48	**8**	4,637	341.8	172
EDE 81	**27**	12,909	363.2	181
SUAE CORSE DU SUD	**21**	3,064	162.6	179
SUAE HAUTE-CORSE	**32**	9,380	151.4	183
UNOTEC 12	**154**	75,485	371.8	180
Overall total	**741**	**289,199**	**314.9**	**174**

[1]Refer to the Introduction paragraph for details.

1.2.8 - Results per milk recording organization (MRO) and local area

MRO	Local area	Number of flocks	Number of ewes in lactation	Milk yield *liters*	Lactation duration *days*
CDEO	Pyrénées Atlantiques	**307**	93,034	234.0	160
	Hautes Pyrénées	**1**	81	164.8	163
Total MRO		***308***	***93,115***	***234.0***	***160***
Confédération Générale de Roquefort	Aude	**1**	428	358.0	187
	Aveyron	**138**	68,009	363.4	182
	Hérault	**2**	1,265	368.1	183
	Lozère	**10**	3,493	358.2	180
	Tarn	**39**	16,804	372.5	178
	Tarn & Garonne	**1**	610	315.8	164
Total MRO		***191***	***90,609***	***364.6***	***181***
EDE 48	Lozère	**8**	4,637	341.8	172
Total MRO		***8***	***4,637***	***341.8***	***172***
EDE 81	Tarn	**27**	12,909	363.2	181
Total MRO		***27***	***12,909***	***363.2***	***181***
SUAE CORSE DU SUD	Corse du Sud	**21**	3,064	162.6	179
Total MRO		***21***	***3,064***	***162.6***	***179***
SUAE HAUTE-CORSE	Haute Corse	**32**	9,380	151.4	183
Total MRO		***32***	***9,380***	***151.4***	***183***
UNOTEC 12	Aveyron	**150**	74,154	373.0	180
	Hérault	**4**	1,331	308.8	168
Total MRO		***154***	***75,485***	***371.8***	***180***
Overall total		**741**	**289,199**	**314.9**	**174**

[1]Refer to the Introduction paragraph for details.

1.2.9 - Results per recognized performance recording organization (RPRO)

RPRO	Number of flocks	Number of ewes in lactation	Milk yield *liters*	Lactation duration *days*
CDEO	**308**	93,115	234.0	160
OS Lacaune	**380**	183,640	366.9	181
SUAE CORSE DU SUD	**21**	3,064	162.6	179
SUAE HAUTE-CORSE	**32**	9,380	151.4	183
Overall total	**741**	**289,199**	**314.9**	**174**

1.2.10 - Results per recognized performance recording organization (RPRO) and local area

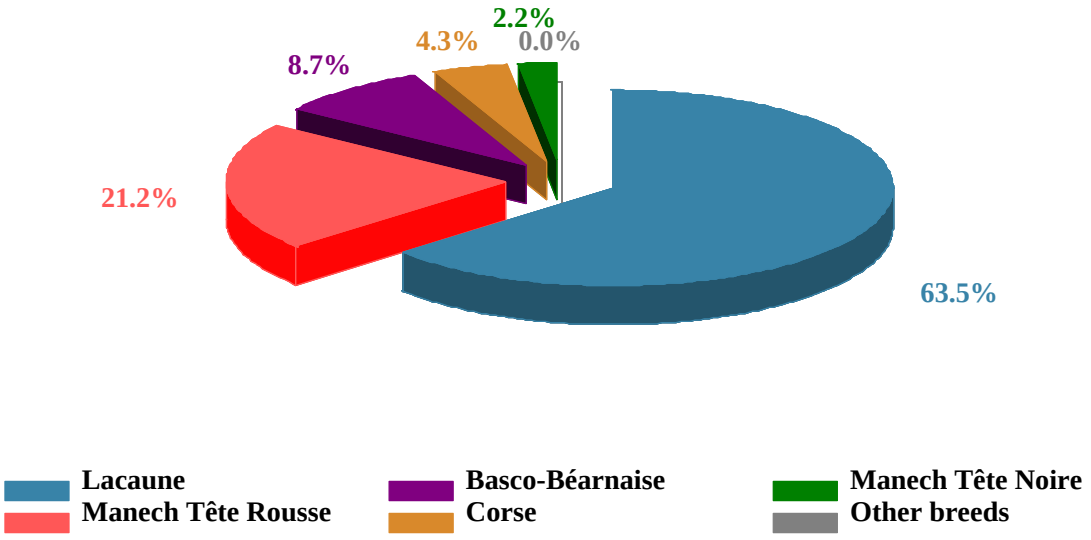
RPRO	Local area	Number of flocks	Number of ewes in lactation	Milk yield *liters*	Lactation duration *days*
CDEO	Pyrénées Atlantiques	**307**	93,034	234.0	160
	Hautes Pyrénées	**1**	81	164.8	163
Total RPRO		***308***	***93,115***	***234.0***	***160***
OS Lacaune	Aude	**1**	428	358.0	187
	Aveyron	**288**	142,163	368.4	181
	Hérault	**6**	2,596	337.7	175
	Lozère	**18**	8,130	348.8	176
	Tarn	**66**	29,713	368.5	179
	Tarn & Garonne	**1**	610	315.8	164
Total RPRO		***380***	***183,640***	***366.9***	***181***
SUAE CORSE DU SUD	Corse du Sud	**21**	3,064	162.6	179
Total RPRO		***21***	***3,064***	***162.6***	***179***
SUAE HAUTE-CORSE	Haute Corse	**32**	9,380	151.4	183
Total RPRO		***32***	***9,380***	***151.4***	***183***
Overall total		**741**	**289,199**	**314.9**	**174**

[1]Refer to the Introduction paragraph for details.

II - RESULTS PER BREED

2.1 - Results for all breeds

Breed	Number of flocks	Number of ewes in lactation	Milk yield *liters*	Milk yield standard deviation *liters*	Lactation duration *days*	Lactation duration standard deviation *days*
Lacaune	383	183,631	**366.9**	*109.6*	181	*40*
Manech Tête Rousse	223	61,428	**246.6**	*90.8*	165	*46*
Basco-Béarnaise	112	25,219	**217.7**	*80.9*	150	*48*
Corse	53	12,444	**154.1**	*71.4*	182	*56*
Manech Tête Noire	62	6,393	**178.7**	*70.7*	151	*44*
Other breeds	41	84	**121.7**	*102.3*	105	*62*

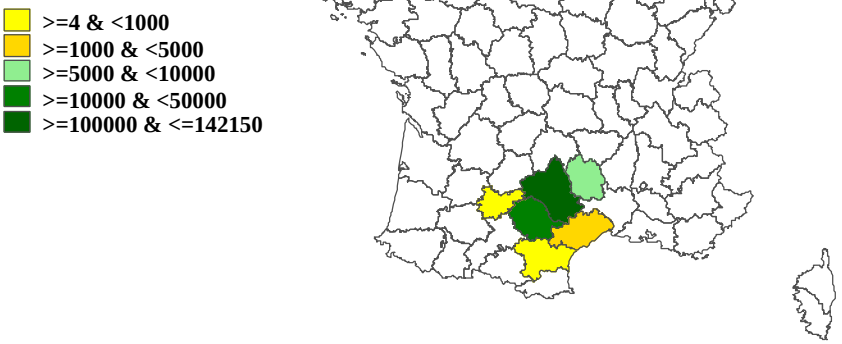


[1]Refer to the Introduction paragraph for details.

2.2 - Breed LACAUNE

(French breed code: 010)

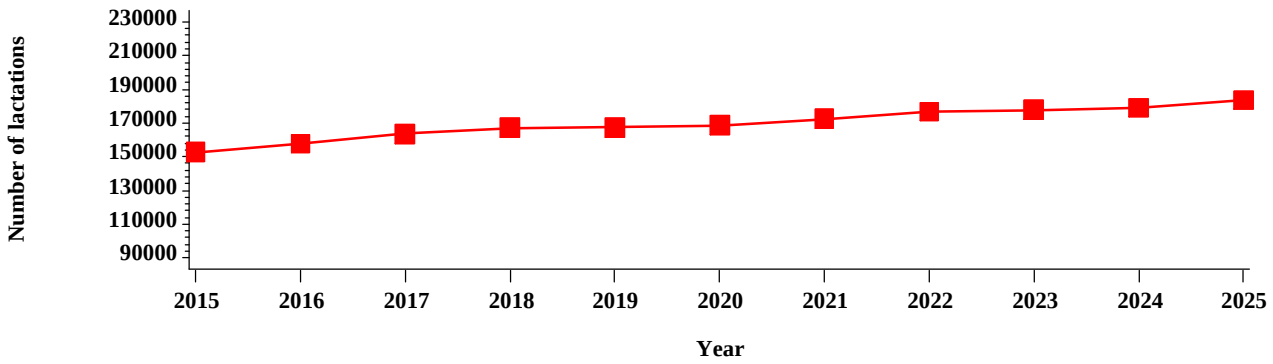
Geographical distribution of ewes with lactations of Lacaune breed



Distribution by parity for Lacaune breed

Parity	Number of ewes in lactation	Milk yield *liters*	Milk yield standard deviation *liters*	Lactation duration *days*	Lactation duration standard deviation *days*
1st lactation	50,614	319.6	*99.6*	169.0	*41*
2nd lactation	40,077	385.0	*106.8*	185.5	*40*
3rd lactation	32,201	404.2	*104.7*	188.6	*37*
4th lactation	24,171	398.1	*106.0*	186.7	*37*
5th lactation	16,769	381.4	*104.5*	183.8	*38*
6th lactation	10,577	356.5	*103.9*	180.2	*40*
7th lactation and over	8,814	320.1	*105.7*	172.4	*44*
Unknown	408	352.7	*113.8*	182.2	*45*
Overall total	**183,631**	**366.9**	**109.6**	**180.5**	**40**

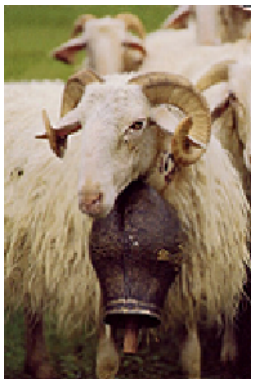
Evolution of the number of lactations for Lacaune breed

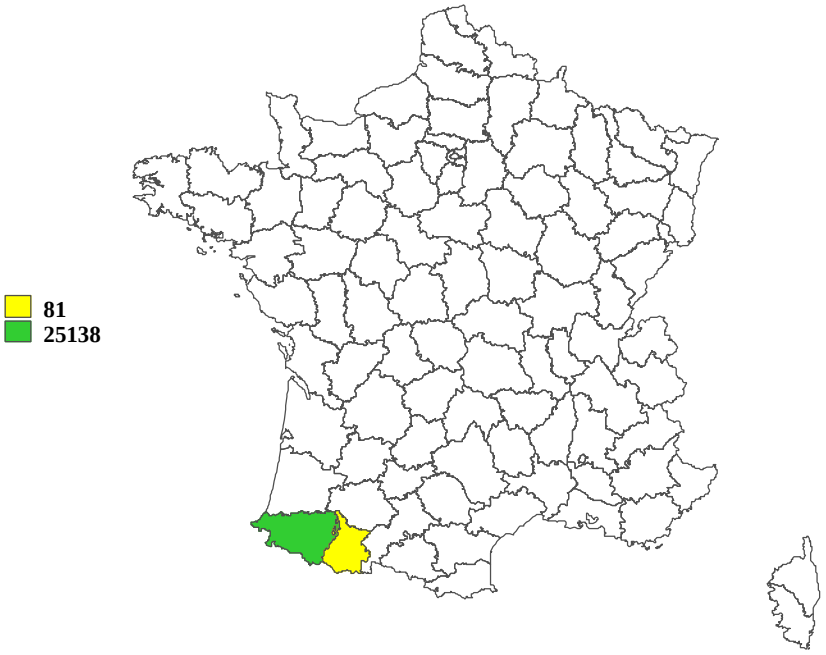


2.3 - Breed BASCO BEARNAISE

(French breed code: 030)

Geographical distribution of ewes with lactations of Basco Bearnaise breed

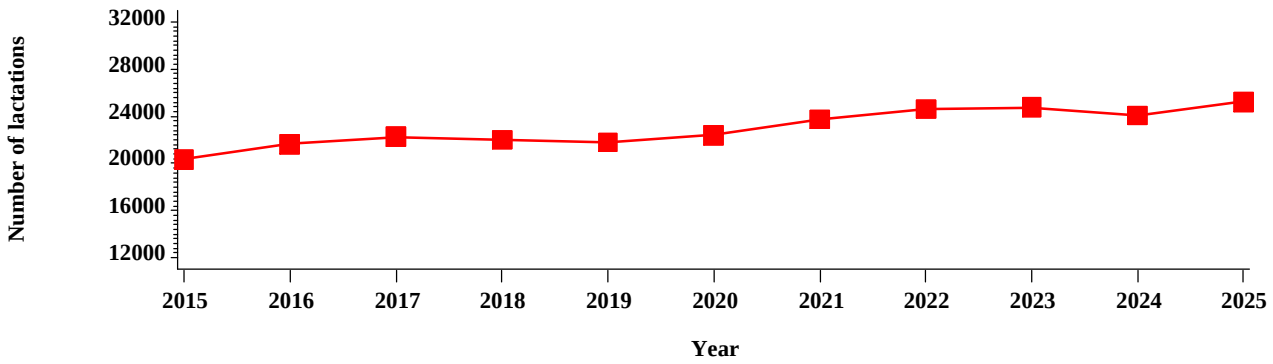




Distribution by parity for Basco Bearnaise breed

Parity	Number of ewes in lactation	Milk yield *liters*	Milk yield standard deviation *liters*	Lactation duration *days*	Lactation duration standard deviation *days*
1st lactation	5,471	173.5	*69.6*	122.3	*48*
2nd lactation	4,979	217.6	*73.4*	148.2	*47*
3rd lactation	4,384	239.9	*76.0*	161.6	*43*
4th lactation	3,550	245.2	*80.4*	165.0	*42*
5th lactation	2,665	237.3	*82.3*	163.4	*42*
6th lactation	1,874	228.0	*80.3*	161.9	*43*
7th lactation and over	1,862	208.2	*83.2*	153.6	*46*
Unknown	434	202.8	*86.2*	148.4	*48*
Overall total	**25,219**	**217.7**	**80.9**	**150.3**	**48**

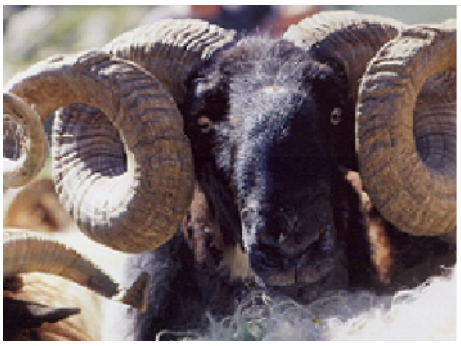
Evolution of the number of lactations for Basco Bearnaise breed

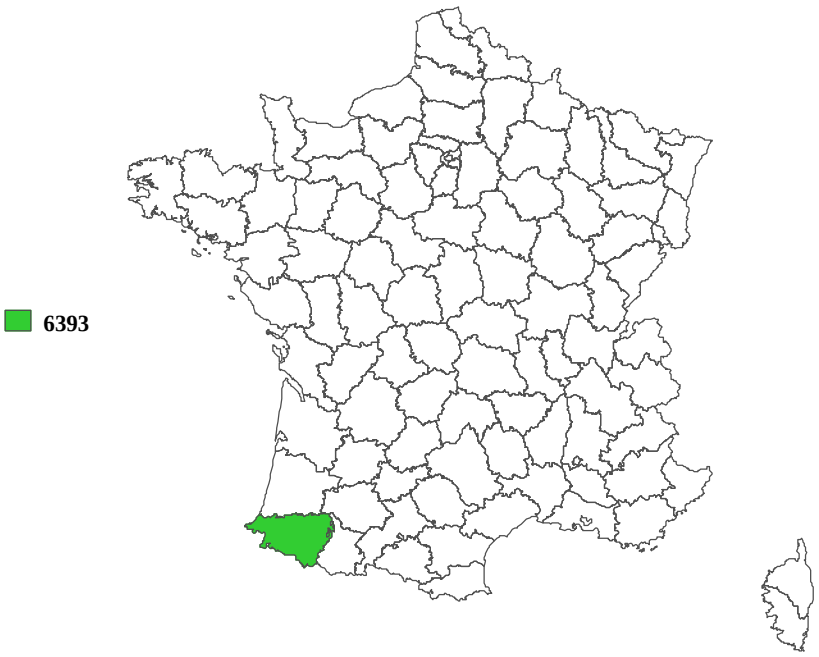


2.4 - Breed MANECH TETE NOIRE

(French breed code: 052)

Geographical distribution of ewes with lactations of Manech Tete Noire breed

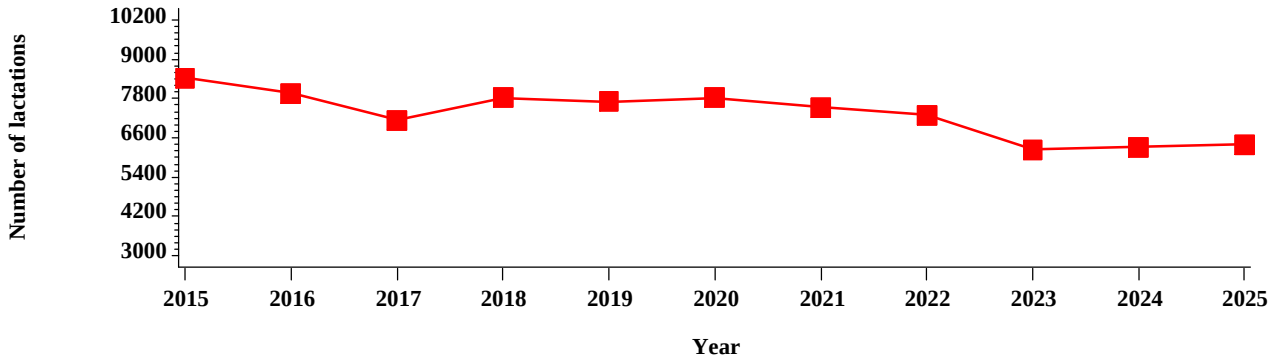




Distribution by parity for Manech Tete Noire breed

Parity	Number of ewes in lactation	Milk yield *liters*	Milk yield standard deviation *liters*	Lactation duration *days*	Lactation duration standard deviation *days*
1st lactation	1,374	161.6	*64.6*	146.2	*48*
2nd lactation	1,375	188.1	*71.3*	152.4	*44*
3rd lactation	1,096	194.0	*73.5*	156.1	*42*
4th lactation	925	190.3	*70.9*	155.1	*41*
5th lactation	663	180.4	*67.7*	150.7	*39*
6th lactation	442	168.6	*66.5*	146.5	*42*
7th lactation and over	357	146.2	*62.3*	140.2	*41*
Unknown	161	168.4	*79.1*	142.2	*46*
Overall total	**6,393**	**178.7**	**70.7**	**150.6**	**44**

Evolution of the number of lactations for Manech Tete Noire breed



2.5 - Breed MANECH TETE ROUSSE

(French breed code: 053)

Geographical distribution of ewes with lactations of Manech Tete Rousse breed

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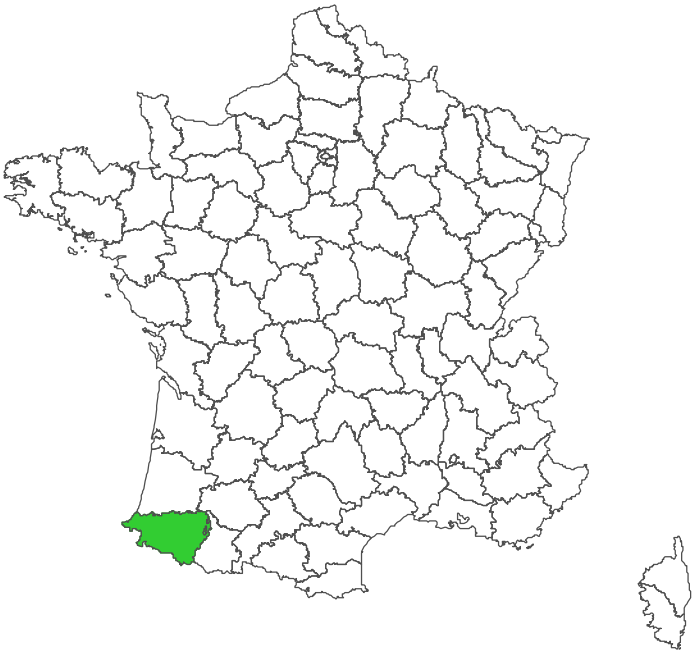
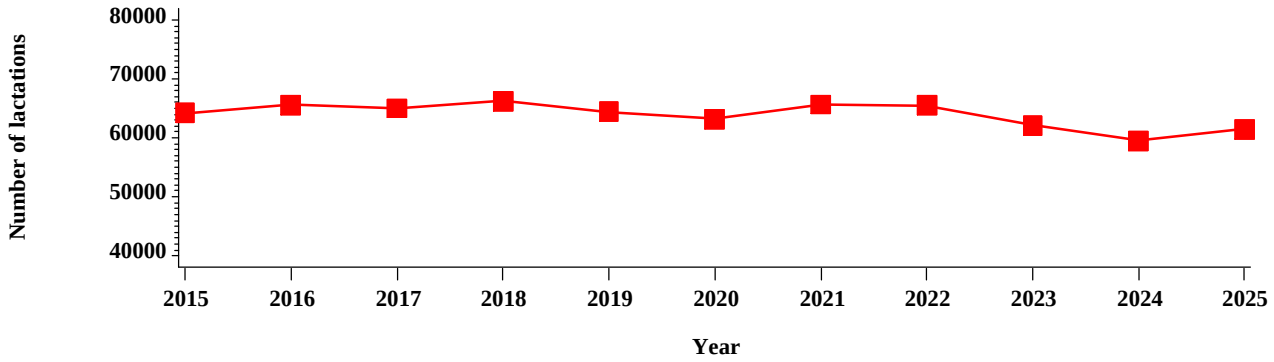


Distribution by parity for Manech Tete Rousse breed

Parity	Number of ewes in lactation	Milk yield *liters*	Milk yield standard deviation *liters*	Lactation duration *days*	Lactation duration standard deviation *days*
1st lactation	14,617	231.8	*85.7*	164.6	*45*
2nd lactation	12,981	259.7	*88.6*	166.8	*46*
3rd lactation	11,249	264.8	*90.4*	168.0	*45*
4th lactation	8,869	257.3	*91.8*	166.5	*45*
5th lactation	6,205	245.4	*90.9*	165.1	*46*
6th lactation	3,767	228.0	*89.8*	159.5	*47*
7th lactation and over	3,253	199.8	*88.0*	150.4	*49*
Unknown	487	191.4	*85.0*	152.1	*48*
Overall total	**61,428**	**246.6**	**90.8**	**164.8**	**46**

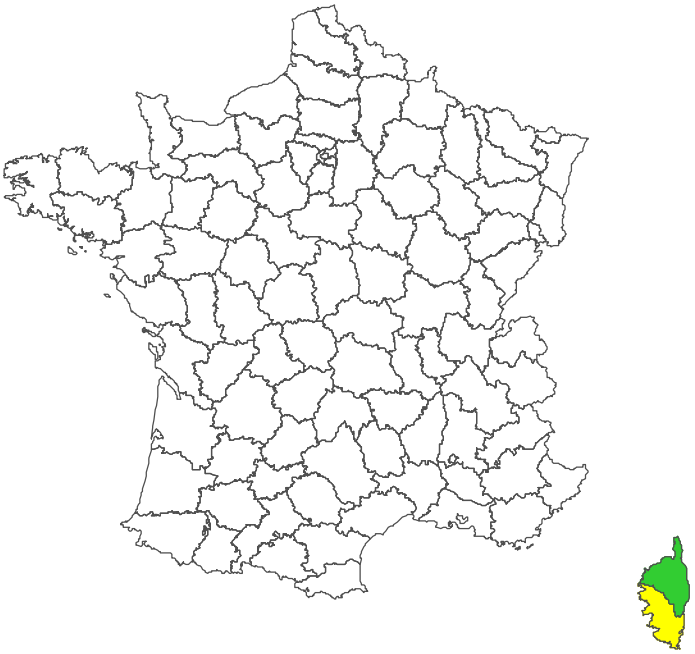
Evolution of the number of lactations for Manech Tete Rousse breed



2.6 - Breed CORSE

(French breed code: 046)

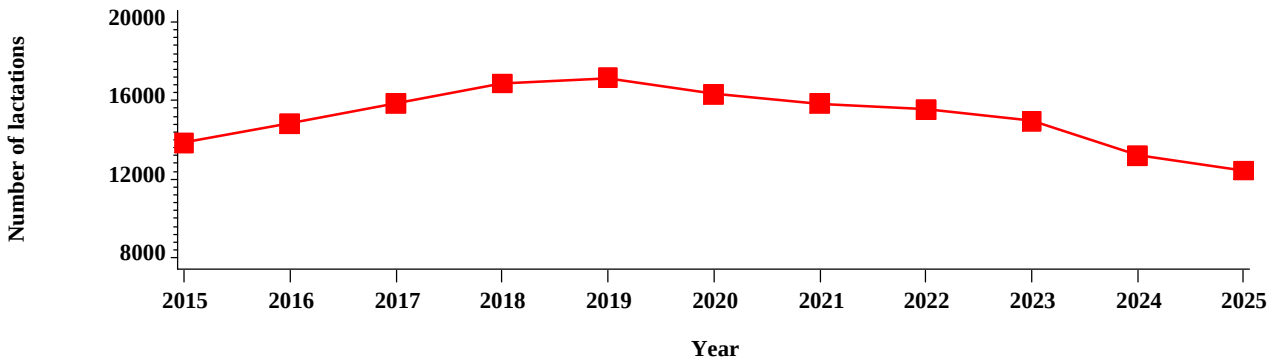
Geographical distribution of ewes with lactations of Corse breed



Distribution by parity for Corse breed

Parity	Number of ewes in lactation	Milk yield *liters*	Milk yield standard deviation *liters*	Lactation duration *days*	Lactation duration standard deviation *days*
1st lactation	2,432	111.2	*55.1*	143.4	*52*
2nd lactation	2,131	154.8	*65.8*	183.5	*55*
3rd lactation	1,826	172.8	*72.8*	191.4	*53*
4th lactation	1,577	180.0	*70.7*	197.8	*50*
5th lactation	1,382	176.9	*70.5*	200.0	*48*
6th lactation	842	178.0	*68.4*	204.5	*46*
7th lactation and over	1,517	154.3	*68.8*	192.2	*54*
Unknown	737	122.1	*66.7*	167.2	*63*
Overall total	**12,444**	**154.1**	**71.4**	**182.0**	**56**

Evolution of the number of lactations for Corse breed



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Résultats

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COLLECTION
RESULTATS

Milk recording results

Sheep

France - Year 2025

The total number of ewes present at the lambing period in 2025 reaches 345,655 ewes, representing an increase of 6,662 ewes (+2%). At the same time the total number of ewes with lactation calculation increased and reached 289,199 (+2,4 %), ending the downward trend observed for the past two years. 741 flocks are submitted to Official Milk Recording in 2025. That's 9 more than the previous year. Meanwhile, with 466 ewes, the average size of the flock is increasing (+4 ewes). In 2025, at the national level, the average milk yield per ewe is increasing at 314.9 liters (+13.8 liters) in 174 days of lactation during the milking period. Except for the Corse breed for which the average milk yield per ewe has remained unchanged, the increase milk yield is observed in all other breeds (Lacaune +17.5 liters, Manech Tête Rousse + 7.7 liters, Basco Béarnaise +6.9 liters and Manech Tête Noire +6.7 liters). A simplified milk recording, corresponding to the D recording method in the ICAR guidelines and not presented in this document, exists in addition to the Official Milk Recording AC design. It concerns commercial flocks out of the selection nucleus (while the Official Milk Recording is devoted only to breeders involved in the selection program). 1,062 flocks and 506,373 ewes present at the lambing period were submitted to D recording in 2025.

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