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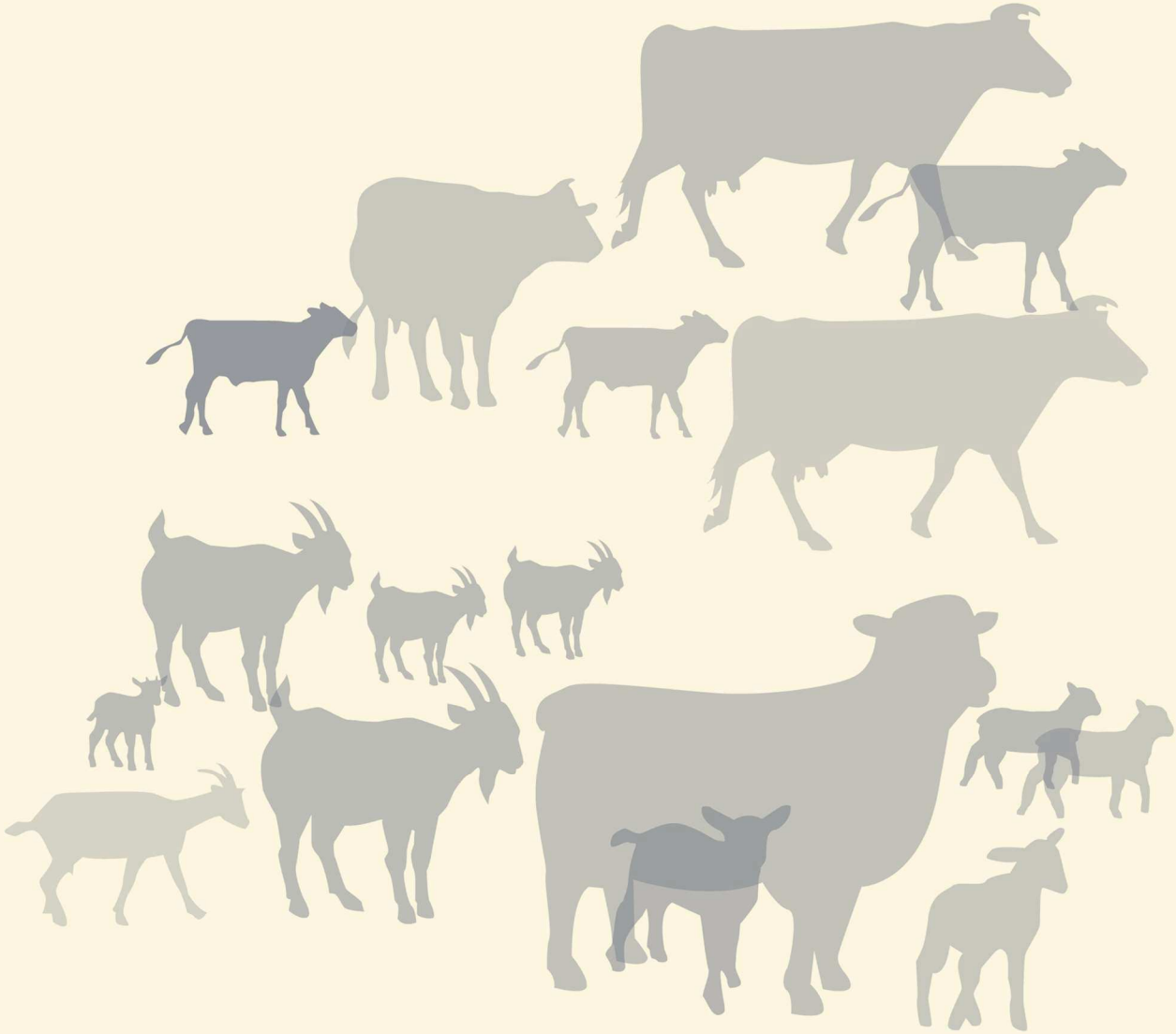
Milk recording results
Sheep
France - Year 2024



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MINISTÈRE DE L'AGRICULTURE ET DE L'ALIMENTATION
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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

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 2024. Thus, these results concern the year 2024. 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 2024

The total number of ewes present at the lambing period in 2024 reaches 338,993 ewes, representing a soft decrease of 617 ewes (-0,2%) ewes.
At the same time the total number of ewes with lactation calculation decreased to 282,366 (-1,2%). This variation confirms the trend observed the previous year. 732 flocks are submitted to Official Milk Recording in 2024, a figure similar to that of the previous year. Meanwhile, with 462 ewes, the average size of the flock is increasing, yet with a slower speed than the previous years (460 ewes in 2023, 452 ewes in 2022, 447 ewes in 2021, 441ewes in 2020, 433 in 2019 and 428 in 2018).

In 2024, at the national level, the average milk yield per ewe is slightly decreasing at 301.1 liters (-3.5 litres) in 173 days of lactation during the milking period. Beyond this national average, variations are observed at breeds levels. Indeed, in 2024 while average milk yield in Lacaune, Manech Tête Rousse and Manech Tête Noire breeds production is decreasing from respectively -7.7 litres, -4.8 litres and – 4 litres, Basco Béarnaise production is stable (+0.2 Liters) and Corse breed production is increasing (+9.7 litres).

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). 1,102 flocks and 517,242 ewes present at the lambing period were submitted to D recording in 2024.

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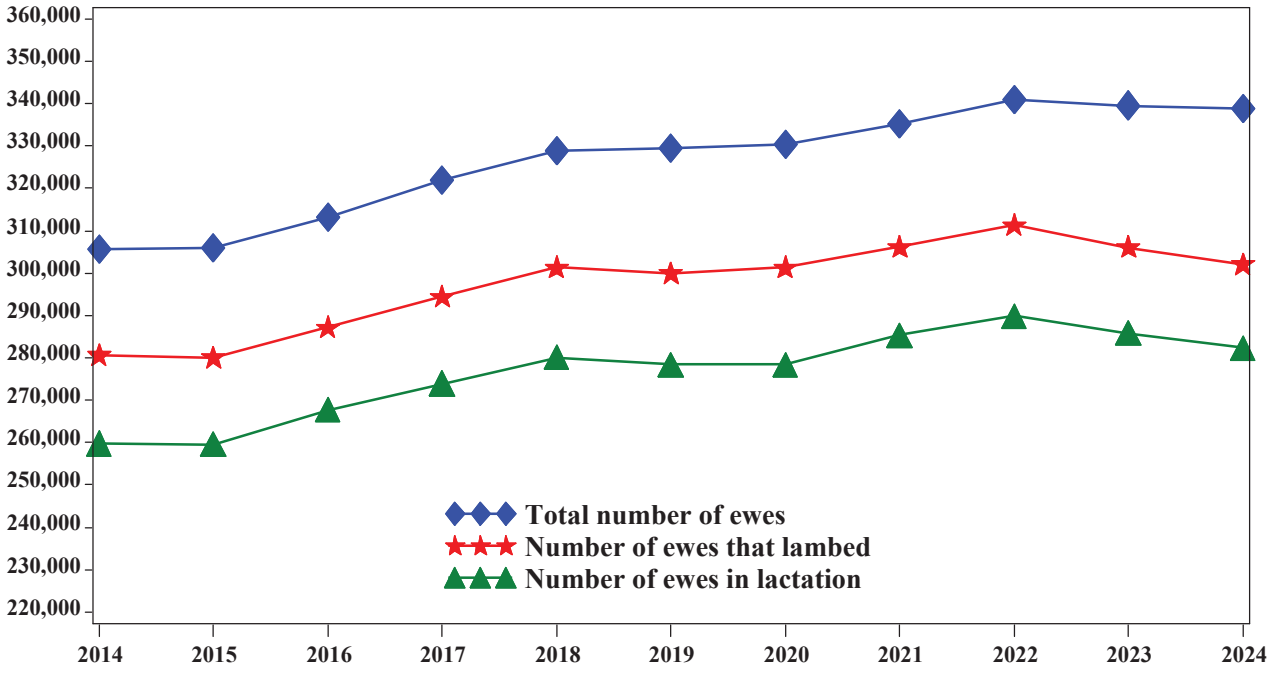
I - GLOBAL RESULTS

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*
2014	**305,619**	280,575	*91.8*	259,791	*92.6*	254.2	165
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



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	**97,618**	77,876	*79.8*	72,394	*93.0*	264.5	161
2nd lactation and over	**241,375**	224,144	*92.9*	209,972	*93.7*	313.7	177
Overall total	**338,993**	**302,020**	**89.1**	**282,366**	**93.5**	**301.1**	**173**

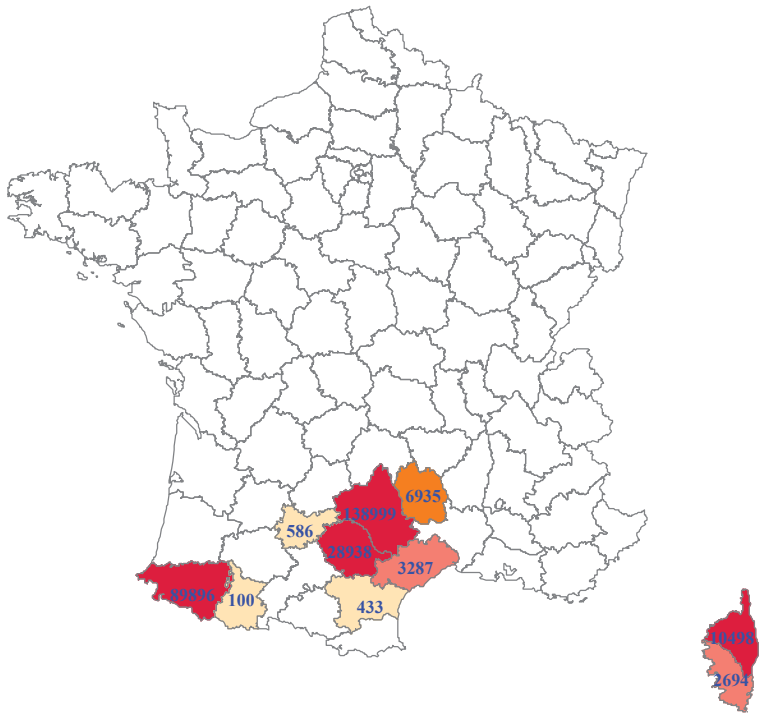
1.2.2 - Number of flocks and average number of ewes per flock

Total number of ewes in lactation	Total number of flocks	Average number of ewes per flock
282,366	732	385.7

1.2.3 - Results per local area

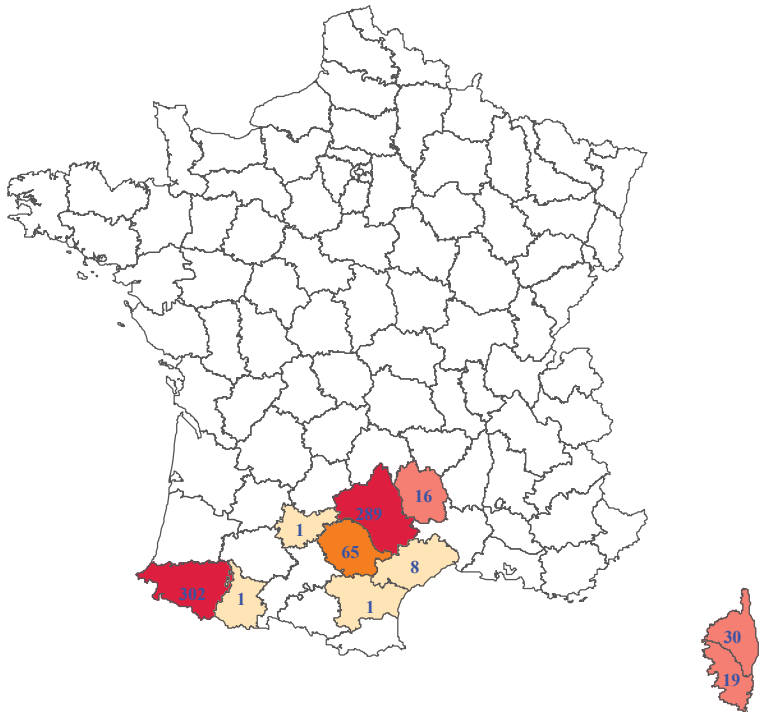
Local area	Number of flocks	Number of ewes in lactation	Milk yield *l*	Lactation duration *d*
Aude	**1**	433	355.3	189
Aveyron	**289**	138,999	350.8	179
Corse du Sud	**19**	2,694	163.5	176
Haute Corse	**30**	10,498	151.7	190
Hérault	**8**	3,287	334.8	177
Lozère	**16**	6,935	336.6	174
Pyrénées Atlantiques	**302**	89,896	226.7	158
Hautes Pyrénées	**1**	100	156.4	150
Tarn	**65**	28,938	348.0	178
Tarn & Garonne	**1**	586	298.4	160
Overall total	**732**	**282,366**	**301.1**	**173**

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	48,534	299.3	166
	2nd lactation	39,822	368.4	184
	3rd lactation	31,433	387.9	187
	4th lactation	23,524	379.8	186
	5th lactation	16,467	362.4	183
	6th lactation	10,397	342.1	179
	7th lactation and over	8,760	305.0	171
	Unknown	238	305.1	174
Total breeding area		***179,175***	***349.3***	***179***
02	1st lactation	2,645	107.8	145
	2nd lactation	2,304	154.6	183
	3rd lactation	2,011	179.9	201
	4th lactation	1,749	183.5	207
	5th lactation	1,209	182.9	210
	6th lactation	957	172.7	206
	7th lactation and over	1,615	149.1	195
	Unknown	702	116.0	186
Total breeding area		***13,192***	***154.1***	***187***
03	1st lactation	21,215	204.4	150
	2nd lactation	18,984	234.8	157
	3rd lactation	16,352	245.2	163
	4th lactation	12,635	244.1	165
	5th lactation	8,836	232.5	163
	6th lactation	5,639	216.5	159
	7th lactation and over	5,140	196.3	152
	Unknown	1,198	186.0	148
Total breeding area		***89,999***	***226.6***	***158***
Overall total		**282,366**	**301.1**	**173**

[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	8,650	274.8	152
		February	5,307	262.0	142
		March	2,279	233.1	125
		April	355	165.9	92
		May	101	127.4	80
		June	33	125.8	71
		July	93	227.4	184
		August	1,373	362.9	202
		September	3,487	348.9	195
		October	8,975	329.1	187
		November	11,598	317.9	176
		December	6,283	282.8	158
	2nd lactation and over	January	18,417	354.8	173
		February	9,030	339.5	156
		March	2,379	267.6	123
		April	512	183.7	90
		May	215	184.3	99
		June	418	249.6	175
		July	805	336.8	192
		August	6,580	385.2	198
		September	16,139	385.8	196
		October	36,489	380.5	195
		November	28,376	375.5	186
		December	11,281	356.4	172
Total breeding area			***179,175***	***349.3***	***179***
02	1st lactation	January	751	97.5	125
		February	425	75.9	93
		March	119	47.6	72
		April	13	19.3	38
		May			
		June			
		July			
		August			
		September	132	176.5	230
		October	378	148.8	204
		November	414	110.8	174
		December	413	116.9	150
	2nd lactation and over	January	717	124.0	126
		February	404	91.5	98
		March	98	61.9	73
		April	17	22.4	37
		May	2	19.5	25
		June			
		July			
		August	51	147.4	231
		September	3,624	180.9	224
		October	4,266	173.6	207
		November	1,127	159.7	182
		December	241	131.6	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			***13,192***	***154.1***	***187***
03	1st lactation	January	2,289	180.7	131
		February	2,345	140.5	94
		March	2,334	106.9	71
		April	321	68.4	47
		May	18	28.5	26
		June			
		July			
		August			
		September	9	270.0	217
		October	2,547	248.7	193
		November	7,574	248.2	182
		December	3,778	213.3	163
	2nd lactation and over	January	3,485	215.7	132
		February	4,164	173.0	97
		March	3,412	129.4	71
		April	522	83.2	48
		May	33	41.0	28
		June			
		July			
		August			
		September	76	200.0	189
		October	11,351	247.3	184
		November	34,574	248.8	174
		December	11,167	239.5	160
Total breeding area			***89,999***	***226.6***	***158***
Overall total			**282,366**	**301.1**	**173**

[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**	514	349.7	175
	>=200 & <250	**7**	1,542	343.9	177
	>=250 & <300	**31**	8,540	343.1	181
	>=300 & <350	**33**	10,684	329.7	177
	>=350 & <400	**61**	22,667	342.7	178
	>=400 & <450	**51**	21,485	350.3	181
	>=450 & <500	**50**	23,702	342.0	178
	>=500 & <550	**46**	24,088	354.2	180
	>=550 & <600	**24**	13,643	348.5	178
	>= 600	**74**	52,310	358.3	179
Total breeding area		***380***	***179,175***	***349.3***	***179***
02	< 200	**29**	4,089	146.9	179
	>=200 & <250	**4**	883	159.7	179
	>=250 & <300	**3**	847	155.7	192
	>=300 & <350	**3**	957	178.7	199
	>=350 & <400	**3**	1,148	188.0	184
	>=400 & <450	**1**	403	168.3	205
	>=500 & <550	**1**	513	157.7	198
	>=550 & <600	**1**	554	117.4	173
	>= 600	**4**	3,798	147.0	193
Total breeding area		***49***	***13,192***	***154.1***	***187***
03	< 200	**54**	8,957	190.3	151
	>=200 & <250	**59**	13,015	216.4	154
	>=250 & <300	**58**	16,002	227.6	159
	>=300 & <350	**59**	18,989	230.8	162
	>=350 & <400	**29**	10,789	241.1	160
	>=400 & <450	**18**	7,559	230.7	160
	>=450 & <500	**10**	4,696	213.1	151
	>=500 & <550	**6**	3,121	254.6	160
	>=550 & <600	**3**	1,762	283.5	162
	>= 600	**8**	5,109	236.7	159
Total breeding area		***304***	***89,999***	***226.6***	***158***
Overall total		**733**	**282,366**	**301.1**	**173**

[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	**303**	89,996	226.6	158
Confédération Générale de Roquefort	**189**	87,615	347.4	180
EDE 48	**7**	3,893	322.7	169
EDE 81	**27**	12,525	344.9	181
SUAE CORSE DU SUD	**19**	2,694	163.5	176
SUAE HAUTE-CORSE	**30**	10,498	151.7	190
UNOTEC 12	**157**	75,145	353.8	178
Overall total	**732**	**282,366**	**301.1**	**173**

[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	**302**	89,896	226.7	158
	Hautes Pyrénées	**1**	100	156.4	150
Total MRO		***303***	***89,996***	***226.6***	***158***
Confédération Générale de Roquefort	Aude	**1**	433	355.3	189
	Aveyron	**137**	65,485	346.7	180
	Hérault	**3**	1,656	347.6	185
	Lozère	**9**	3,042	354.3	181
	Tarn	**38**	16,413	350.4	176
	Tarn & Garonne	**1**	586	298.4	160
Total MRO		***189***	***87,615***	***347.4***	***180***
EDE 48	Lozère	**7**	3,893	322.7	169
Total MRO		*7*	***3,893***	***322.7***	***169***
EDE 81	Tarn	**27**	12,525	344.9	181
Total MRO		*27*	***12,525***	***344.9***	***181***
SUAE CORSE DU SUD	Corse du Sud	**19**	2,694	163.5	176
Total MRO		*19*	***2,694***	***163.5***	***176***
SUAE HAUTE-CORSE	Haute Corse	**30**	10,498	151.7	190
Total MRO		*30*	***10,498***	***151.7***	***190***
UNOTEC 12	Aveyron	**152**	73,514	354.5	179
	Hérault	**5**	1,631	321.7	168
Total MRO		*157*	***75,145***	***353.8***	***178***
Overall total		**732**	**282,366**	**301.1**	**173**

[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	**303**	89,996	226.6	158
OS Lacaune	**380**	179,178	349.3	179
SUAE CORSE DU SUD	**19**	2,694	163.5	176
SUAE HAUTE-CORSE	**30**	10,498	151.7	190
Overall total	**732**	**282,366**	**301.1**	**173**

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

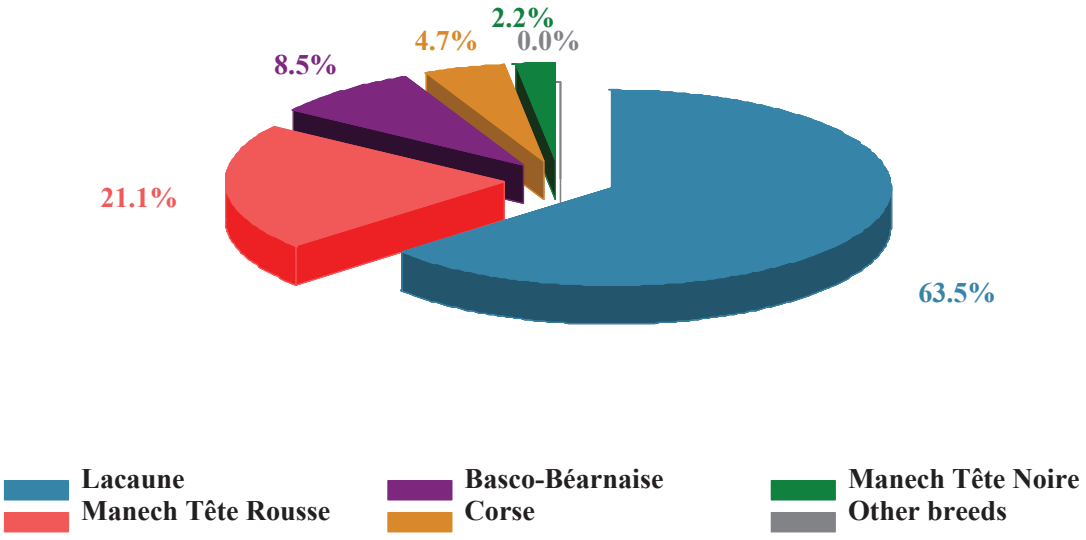
RPRO	Local area	Number of flocks	Number of ewes in lactation	Milk yield *liters*	Lactation duration *days*
CDEO	Pyrénées Atlantiques	**302**	89,896	226.7	158
	Hautes Pyrénées	**1**	100	156.4	150
Total RPRO		***303***	***89,996***	***226.6***	***158***
OS Lacaune	Aude	**1**	433	355.3	189
	Aveyron	**289**	138,999	350.8	179
	Hérault	**8**	3,287	334.8	177
	Lozère	**16**	6,935	336.6	174
	Tarn	**65**	28,938	348.0	178
	Tarn & Garonne	**1**	586	298.4	160
Total RPRO		***380***	***179,178***	***349.3***	***179***
SUAE CORSE DU SUD	Corse du Sud	**19**	2,694	163.5	176
Total RPRO		***19***	***2,694***	***163.5***	***176***
SUAE HAUTE-CORSE	Haute Corse	**30**	10,498	151.7	190
Total RPRO		***30***	***10,498***	***151.7***	***190***
Overall total		**732**	**282,366**	**301.1**	**173**

[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	381	179,167	**349.4**	*106.3*	179	*40*
Manech Tête Rousse	221	59,536	**238.9**	*90.3*	163	*47*
Basco-Béarnaise	106	24,078	**210.8**	*79.4*	148	*48*
Corse	49	13,192	**154.1**	*70.3*	187	*57*
Manech Tête Noire	62	6,316	**172.0**	*69.2*	150	*45*
Other breeds	38	77	**149.8**	*99.6*	117	*60*

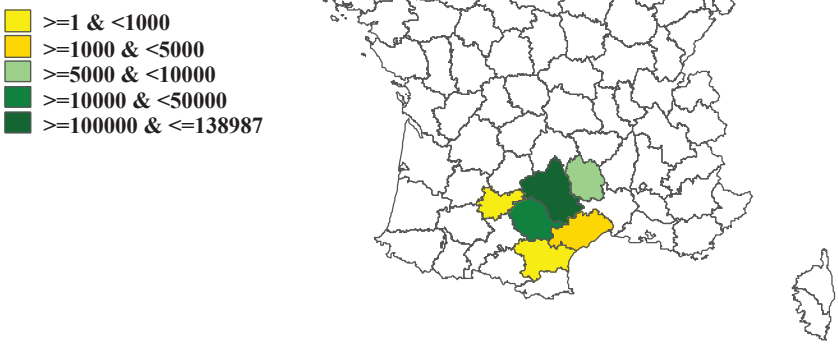


[1]Refer to the Introduction paragraph for details.

2.2 - Breed LACAUNE

(French breed code: 010)

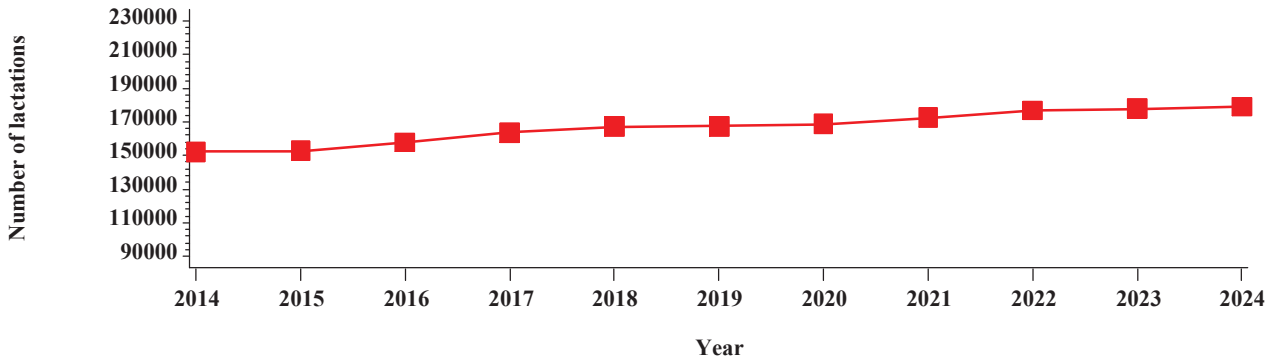
Geographical distribution of ewes with lactations of Lacaune breed



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	48,532	299.3	*94.9*	166.4	*41*
2nd lactation	39,817	368.5	*101.9*	184.0	*39*
3rd lactation	31,430	387.9	*102.4*	187.2	*36*
4th lactation	23,524	379.8	*102.3*	185.8	*37*
5th lactation	16,467	362.4	*101.8*	182.6	*38*
6th lactation	10,399	342.0	*101.8*	178.9	*40*
7th lactation and over	8,760	305.0	*102.2*	171.2	*43*
Unknown	238	305.1	*115.1*	173.9	*41*
Overall total	**179,167**	**349.4**	**106.3**	**179.0**	**40**

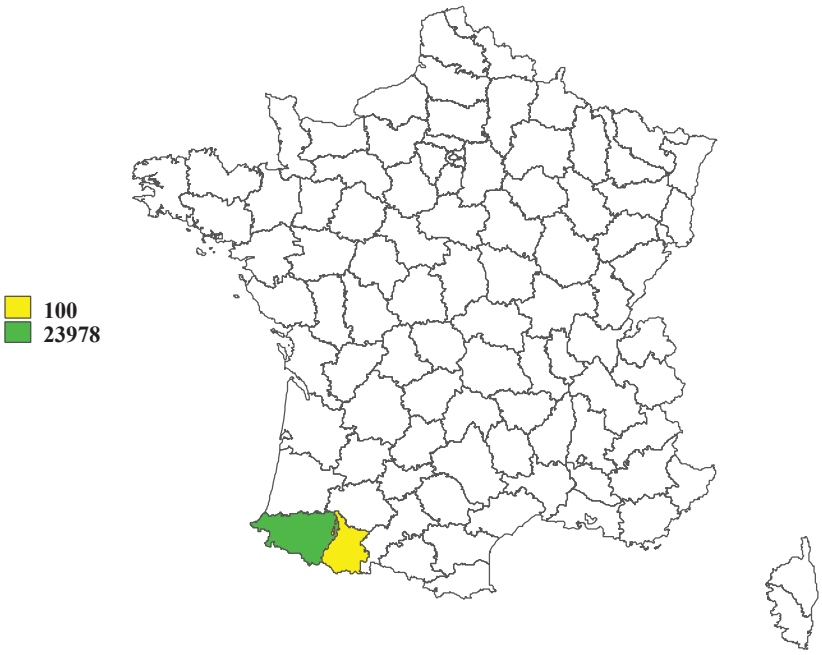
Evolution of the number of lactations for Lacaune breed



2.3 - Breed BASCO BEARNAISE

(French breed code: 030)

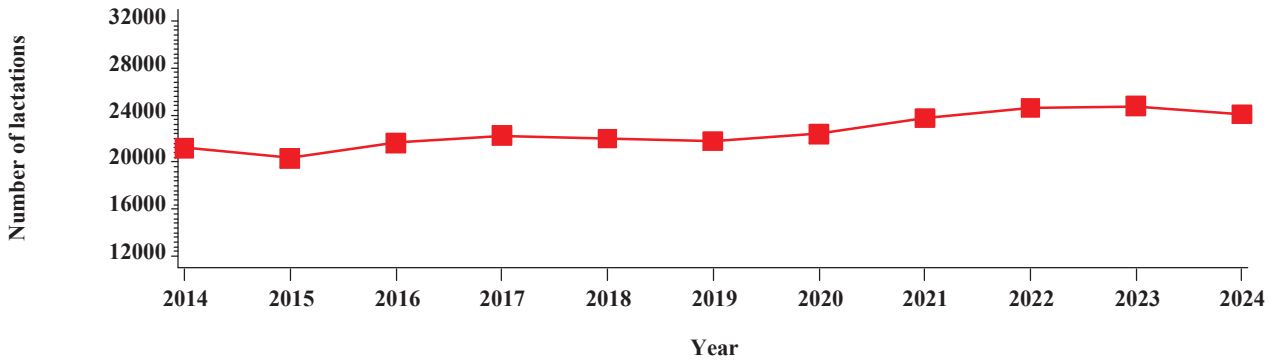
Geographical distribution of ewes with lactations of Basco Bearnaise breed



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	5,340	165.1	*68.8*	119.9	*48*
2nd lactation	4,909	210.4	*72.2*	144.0	*48*
3rd lactation	4,202	234.2	*74.3*	157.5	*44*
4th lactation	3,297	237.4	*79.9*	162.1	*44*
5th lactation	2,481	234.1	*78.6*	163.5	*42*
6th lactation	1,710	221.9	*79.5*	159.8	*44*
7th lactation and over	1,655	204.0	*77.4*	155.8	*45*
Unknown	484	198.7	*83.3*	151.3	*45*
Overall total	**24,078**	**210.8**	**79.4**	**147.6**	**48**

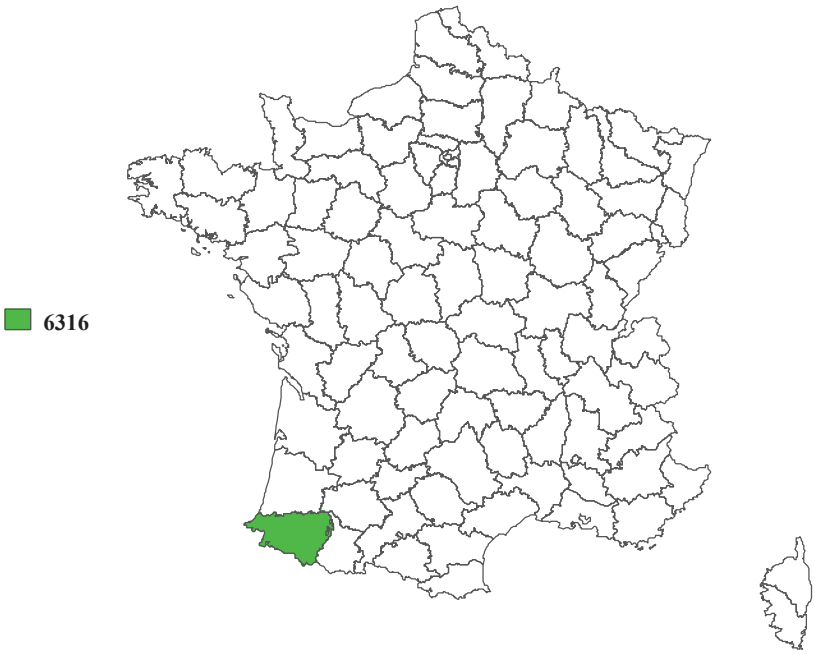
Evolution of the number of lactations for Basco Bearnaise breed



2.4 - Breed MANECH TETE NOIRE

(French breed code: 052)

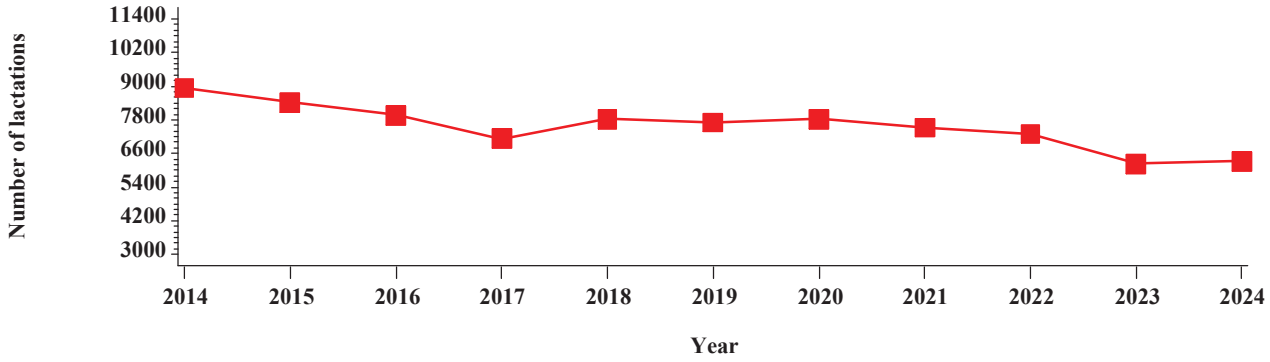
Geographical distribution of ewes with lactations of Manech Tete Noire breed



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	1,455	157.0	*63.2*	145.0	*49*
2nd lactation	1,246	180.8	*72.1*	152.6	*46*
3rd lactation	1,132	186.1	*71.2*	156.1	*43*
4th lactation	891	184.9	*67.2*	154.2	*42*
5th lactation	686	175.3	*68.4*	151.6	*45*
6th lactation	392	155.6	*65.6*	146.4	*44*
7th lactation and over	333	144.3	*62.5*	140.8	*42*
Unknown	181	152.8	*67.9*	145.1	*44*
Overall total	**6,316**	**172.0**	**69.2**	**150.4**	**45**

Evolution of the number of lactations for Manech Tete Noire breed

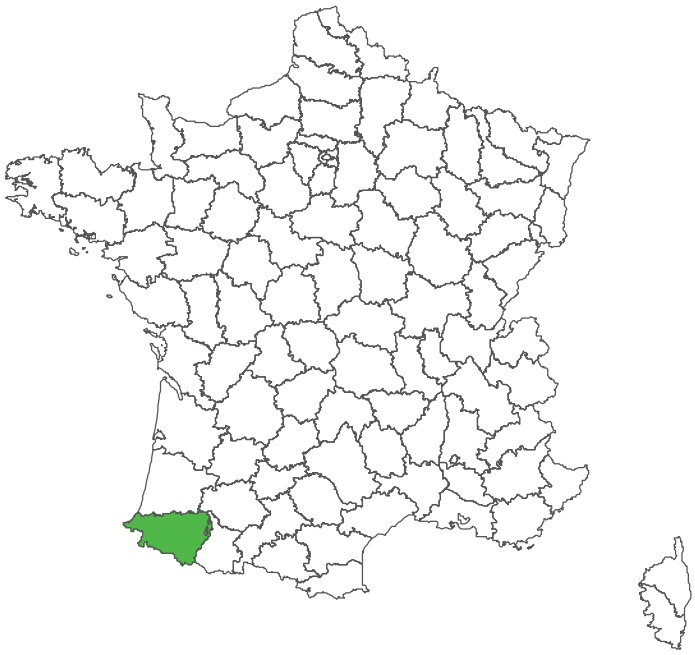


2.5 - Breed MANECH TETE ROUSSE

(French breed code: 053)

Geographical distribution of ewes with lactations of Manech Tete Rousse breed

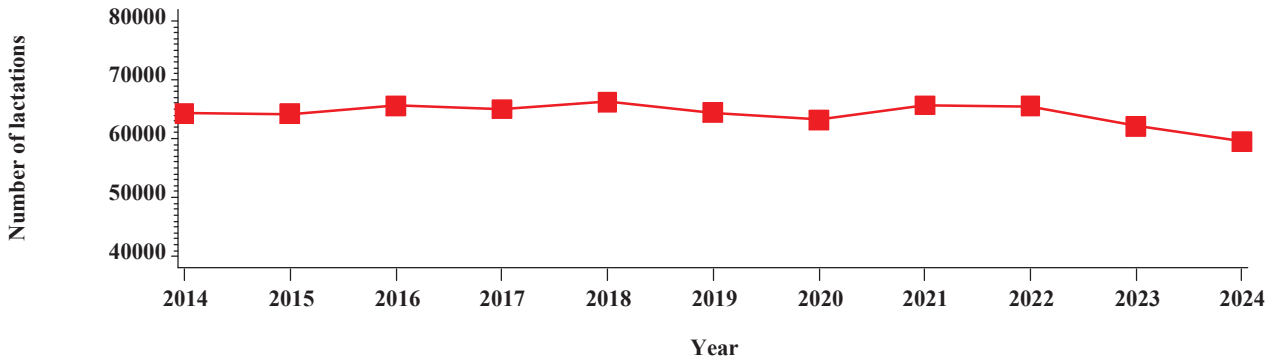
59536



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	14,398	223.9	*86.2*	161.9	*48*
2nd lactation	12,814	249.6	*88.3*	163.2	*48*
3rd lactation	11,007	255.5	*90.2*	165.5	*47*
4th lactation	8,437	253.1	*90.4*	167.4	*45*
5th lactation	5,663	238.8	*90.9*	164.8	*46*
6th lactation	3,535	220.7	*90.1*	159.7	*48*
7th lactation and over	3,150	197.8	*87.0*	152.0	*50*
Unknown	532	186.0	*82.3*	147.1	*47*
Overall total	**59,536**	**238.9**	**90.3**	**163.1**	**47**

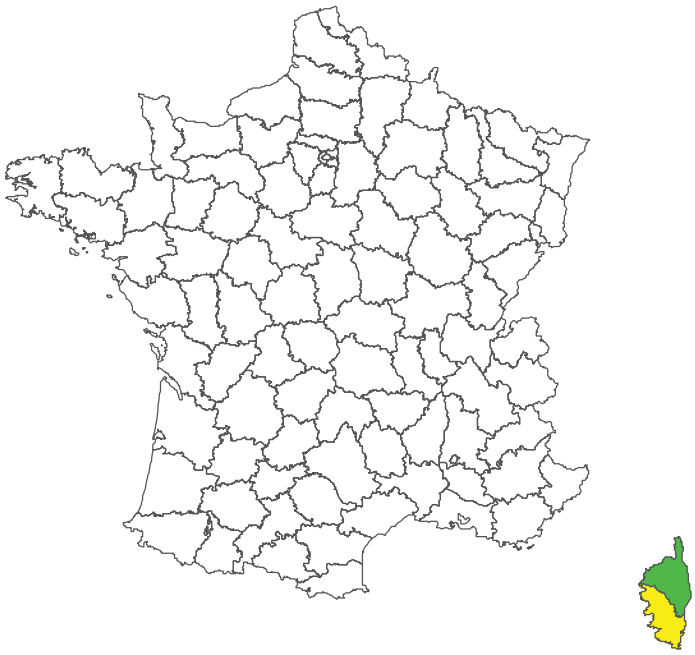
Evolution of the number of lactations for Manech Tete Rousse breed



2.6 - Breed CORSE

(French breed code: 046)

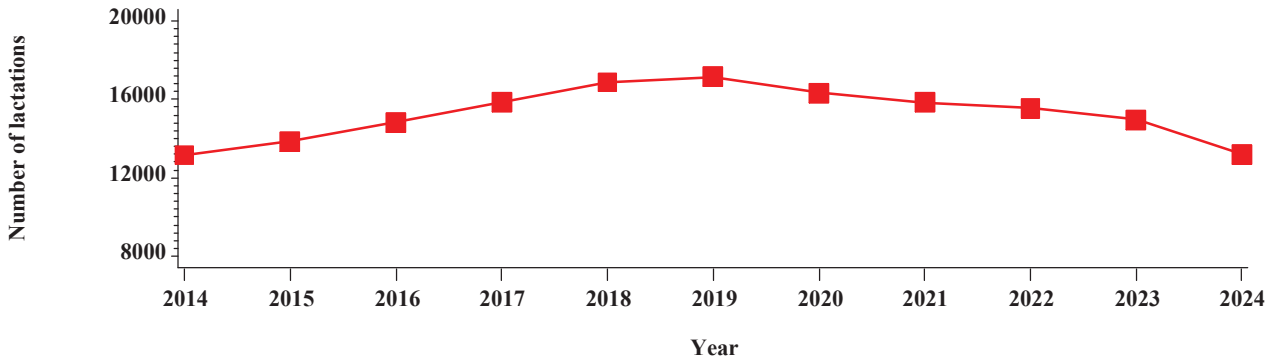
Geographical distribution of ewes with lactations of Corse breed



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	2,645	107.8	*49.4*	145.2	*50*
2nd lactation	2,304	154.6	*64.4*	183.1	*55*
3rd lactation	2,011	179.9	*69.4*	201.4	*52*
4th lactation	1,749	183.5	*69.6*	207.4	*50*
5th lactation	1,209	182.9	*67.8*	209.9	*50*
6th lactation	957	172.7	*71.8*	205.7	*49*
7th lactation and over	1,615	149.1	*67.6*	194.6	*57*
Unknown	702	116.0	*57.9*	185.9	*55*
Overall total	**13,192**	**154.1**	**70.3**	**187.2**	**57**

Evolution of the number of lactations for Corse breed



Collection
Résultats

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COLLECTION RESULTATS

Milk recording results
Sheep

France - Year 2024

The total number of ewes present at the lambing period in 2024 reaches 338,993 ewes, representing a soft decrease of 617 ewes (-0,2%) ewes. At the same time the total number of ewes with lactation calculation decreased to 282,366 (-1,2%). This variation confirms the trend observed the previous year. 732 flocks are submitted to Official Milk Recording in 2024, a figure similar to that of the previous year. Meanwhile, with 462 ewes, the average size of the flock is increasing, yet with a slower speed than the previous years (460 ewes in 2023, 452 ewes in 2022, 447 ewes in 2021, 441ewes in 2020, 433 in 2019 and 428 in 2018). In 2024, at the national level, the average milk yield per ewe is slightly decreasing at 301.1 liters (-3.5 litres) in 173 days of lactation during the milking period. Beyond this national average, variations are observed at breeds levels. Indeed, in 2024 while average milk yield in Lacaune, Manech Tête Rousse and Manech Tête Noire breeds production is decreasing from respectively -7.7 litres, -4.8 litres and – 4 litres, Basco Béarnaise production is stable (+0.2 Liters) and Corse breed production is increasing (+9.7 litres). 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). 1,102 flocks and 517,242 ewes present at the lambing period were submitted to D recording in 2024..

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