

Lamb mortality – Massif Central first year results



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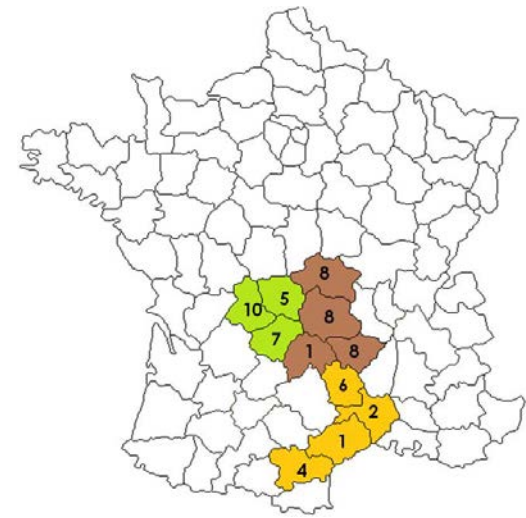
Les activités
du CIIRPO
sont réalisées
grâce au
soutien
financier de :



Aims

- Acquire regional references on the rates and causes of lamb mortality in suckler ewe breeders, taking into account livestock rearing systems
- Describe the main risk factors present in livestock.

Material and methods

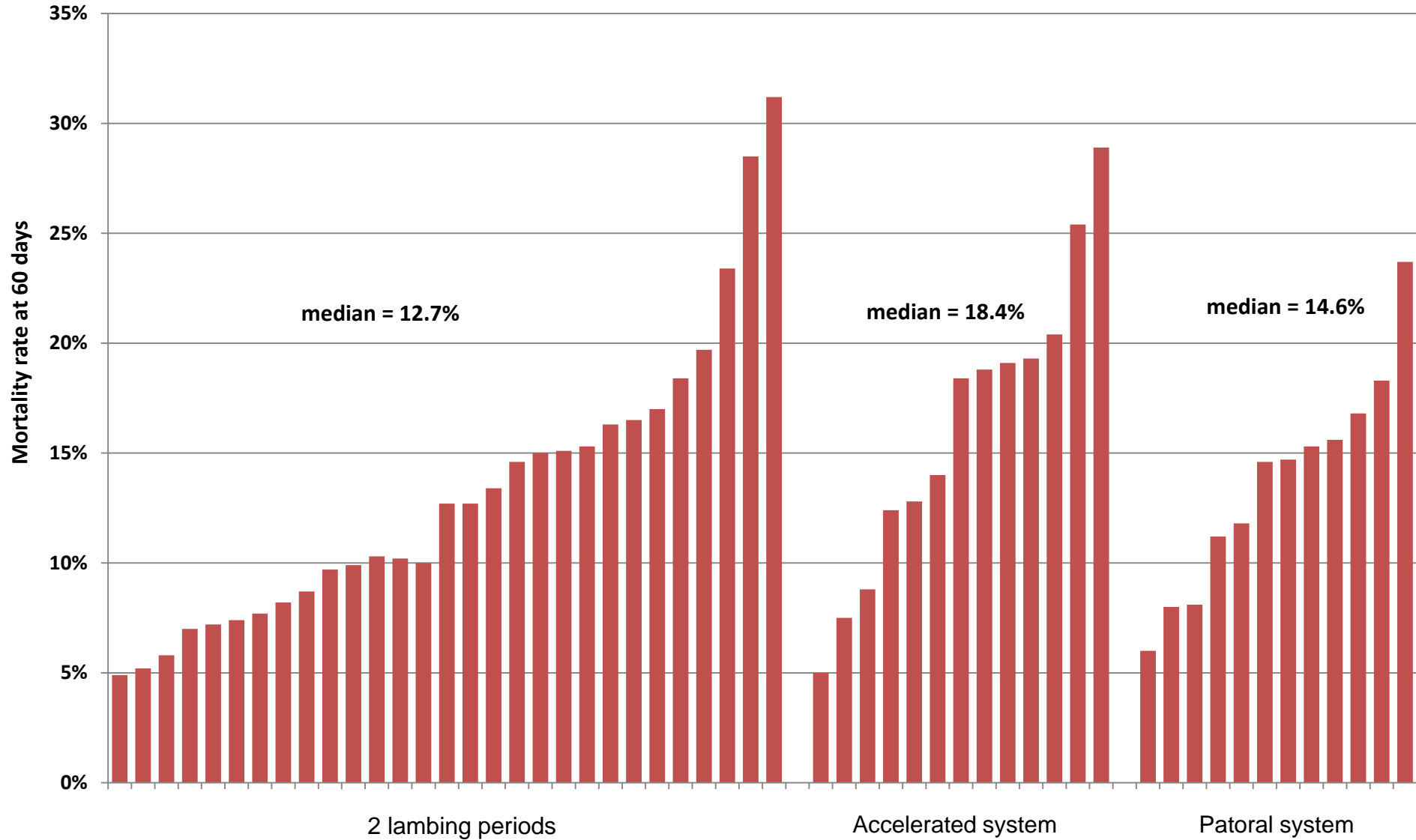


- 54 suckler ewe breeders :
 - Massif Central area
 - 3 rearing systems : two lambing periods, system type 3 lambing in two years, pastoral system
 - Major criterion for inclusion : motivated breeders ! To have good lambing recording
- Records
 - Lambing data (date, dam id, litter size...)
 - Lamb mortality (date, lamb id, observed causes from a standardized list)
- 2 lots (lambing periods) per farm with more investigations:
 - Body Condition Score,
 - Survey on rearing practices
 - Barn temperature
 - plasma selenium concentration of the dam

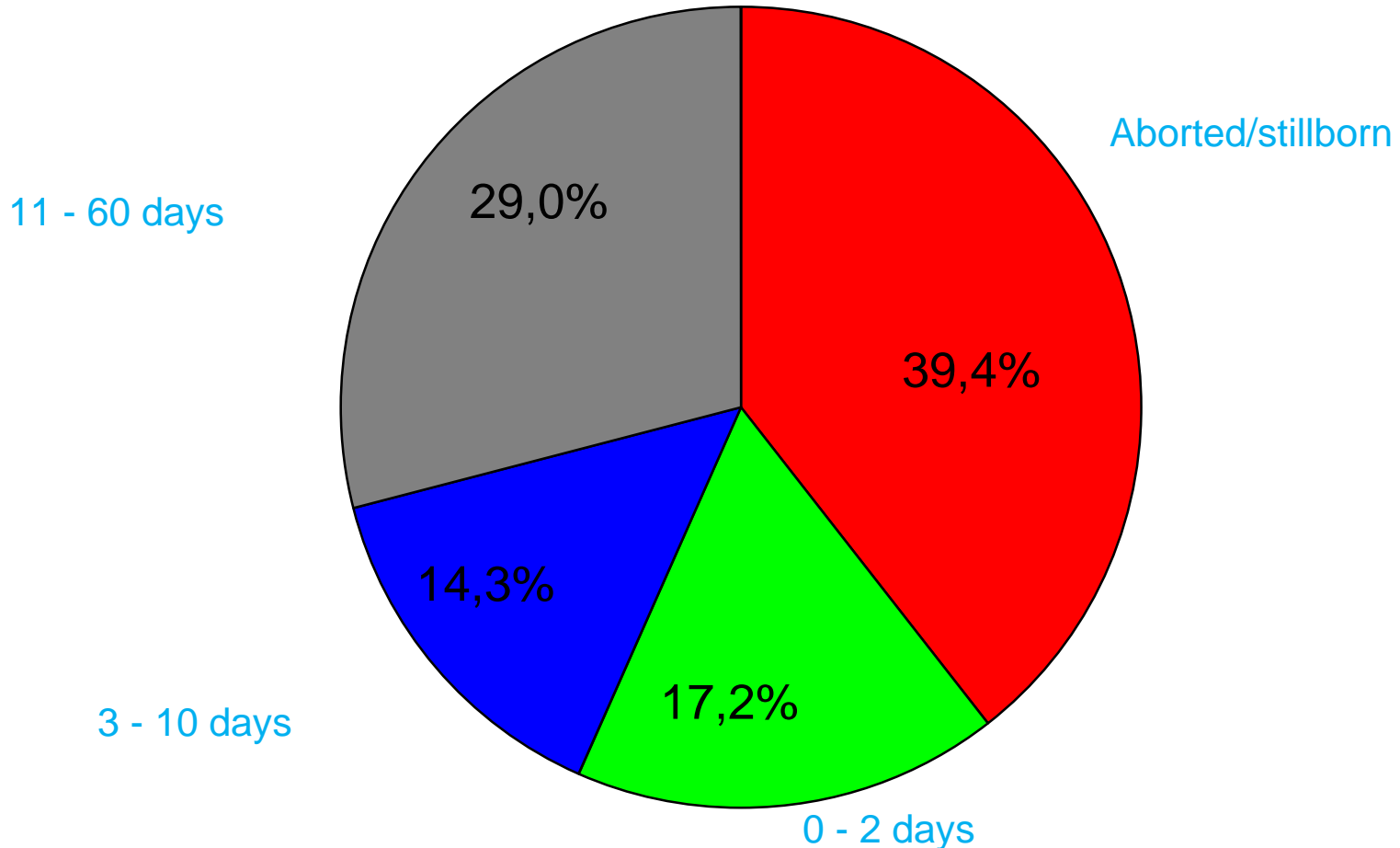
The study is based on

	Overall	2 lambing periods	Accelerated system (3 lambing / 2years)	Pastoral system
Nb of farms	54	29	13	12
Nb lots (lambing period)	156	96	33	27
Nb of lambs born	36 907	17 738	12 434	6 735

Distribution of mortality rates

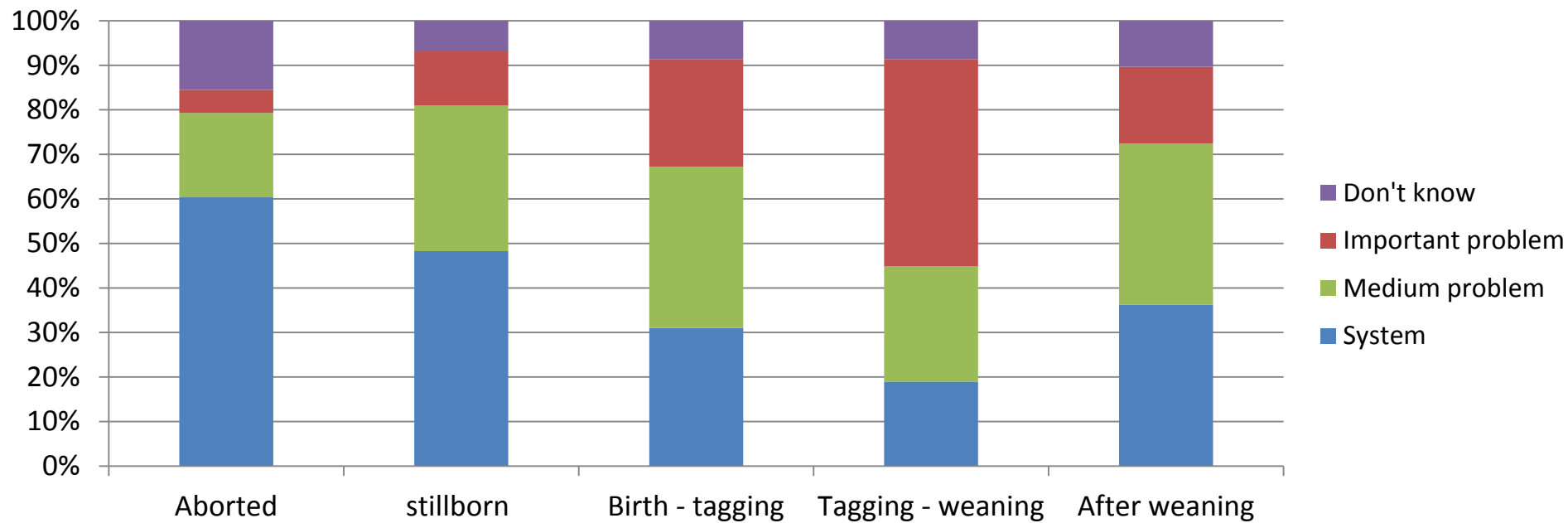


Distribution of lamb mortality by age



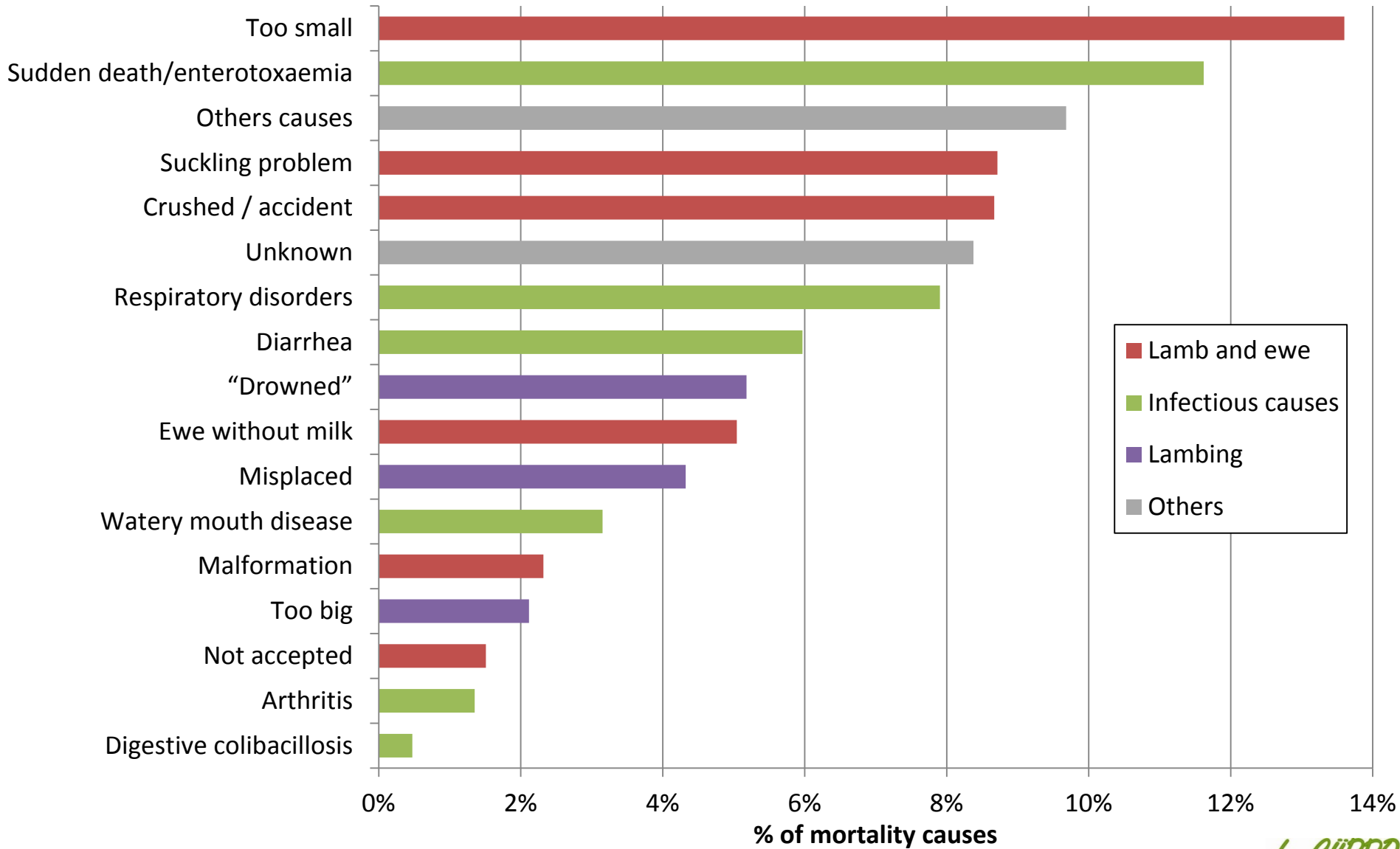
Mortality before 10 days = 65 % of the overall mortality

Farmers' perception regarding different mortality categories



- ▶ Aborted and stillborn more associated with the system : “fatality”
- ▶ Mortality between tagging and weaning is seen as a big problem

Main causes of mortality



Main risk factors

Ewe	Lamb	Environment
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Culling strategy (45%)• Low body condition score (44%)• Low selenium status (30%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Colostrum intake (85%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improper design, management and atmosphere of sheep pens• No sanitary break or less than 1 month (62%)• Age difference between lambs within the same sub-lot around birth (22%)



Conclusions

- High variability of mortality rate within rearing systems
- Early lamb mortality
- Main cause: lamb vigour
- Some major risk factors still exist

- Need to follow research and exchanges on lamb and dam “quality”

Thank you
for your attention

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