



Effects of farm management practices on reproduction efficiency and lamb survival





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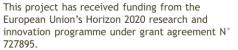














AIM:

Significant between-flock variation is known to exist for both flock fertility and lamb survival, with estimates ranging from 3% to 50% for mortality rates in lambs under a wide range of production systems and environments.

To evaluate the effects that farm management practices have on sheep reproduction outputs and lamb survival under extensive production systems.

MATERIALS AND METHODS:

- » 20 commercial sheep farms located (912.6 ewes)
- » dual-purpose Turcana breed
- » 1 lambing/year and stoking rates of 5-7 ewes/ha
- » comparative study between top 5% better farms and the average





Results and discussions:

- » Flock fertility was on average 94.3%, with limits ranging from 88% to 98%, while the average for the best farms was 97%
- » Abortion rate was on average 2.4%, with limits between 1.1% and 5.3%, while the best farms had an incidence of 1.4%
- » Lamb mortality from birth to weaning (75±10 days) was 2.7%, with limits ranging between 1.2% and 4.9%, with the best farms losing 1.3% of the lambs born alive
- » The average number of lambs produced per ewe put to ram was 1.06, with limits ranging from 0.84 to 1.27, while the best farms produced 1.19 lambs per breeding ewe







Within the same production system and similar environment, there are significant farm effects when flock fertility and lamb survival