



EAAP 2018

69th Annual Meeting of the European Federation of
Animal Science

Dubrovnik, Croatia, 27th to 31st August 2018

Session 41
Pres. 28530

Producing lambs while limiting concentrates in various pedoclimatic contexts: which performances?



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Background

Decrease in European sheep production

- **Profitability** / Production cost, in particular **feed** and **equipments**
- Workload

Global stakes

- Livestock contribution to **Climate change**
- **Energy** consumption
- **Feed-food** competition

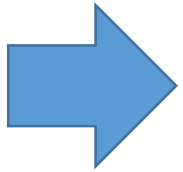
Great variability

- In farm performances (technical and economic)
- Pedito-climat contexts
- Breeds

Aims

In a **large diversity of context**

For **optimized sheep farming systems** (output/input)

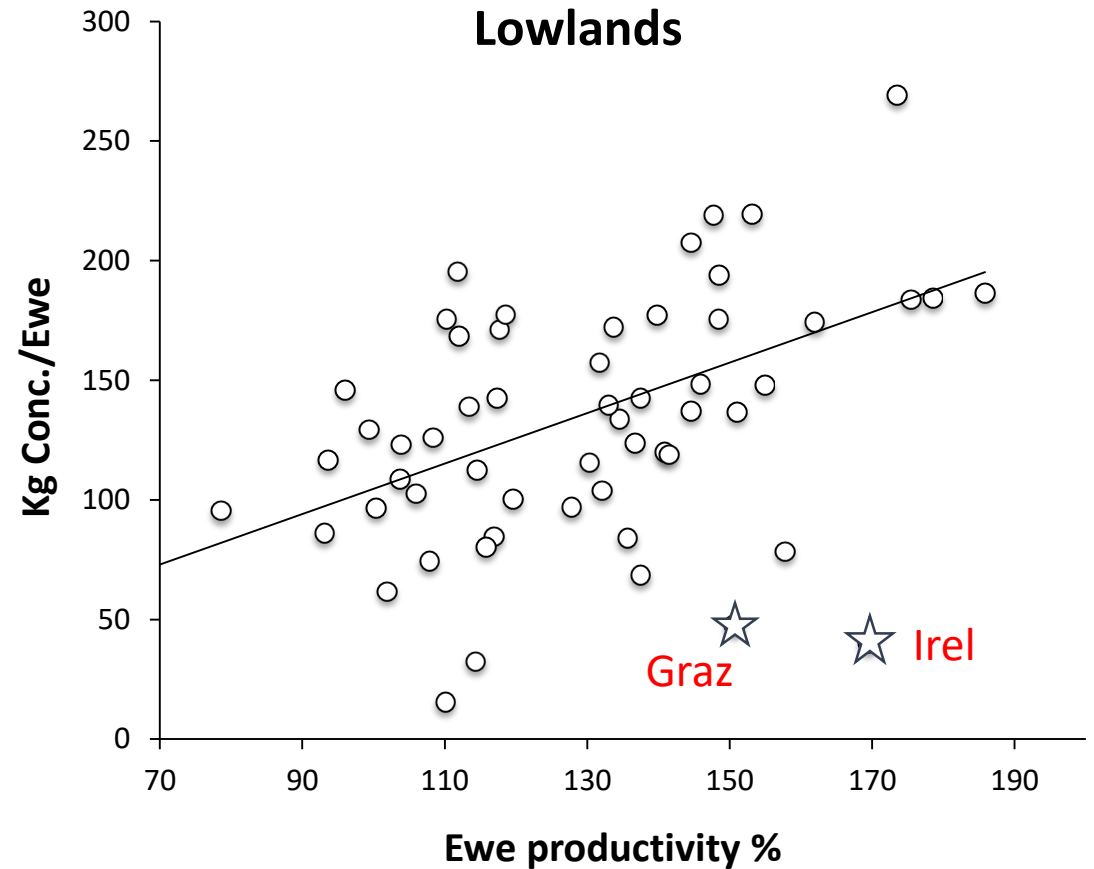
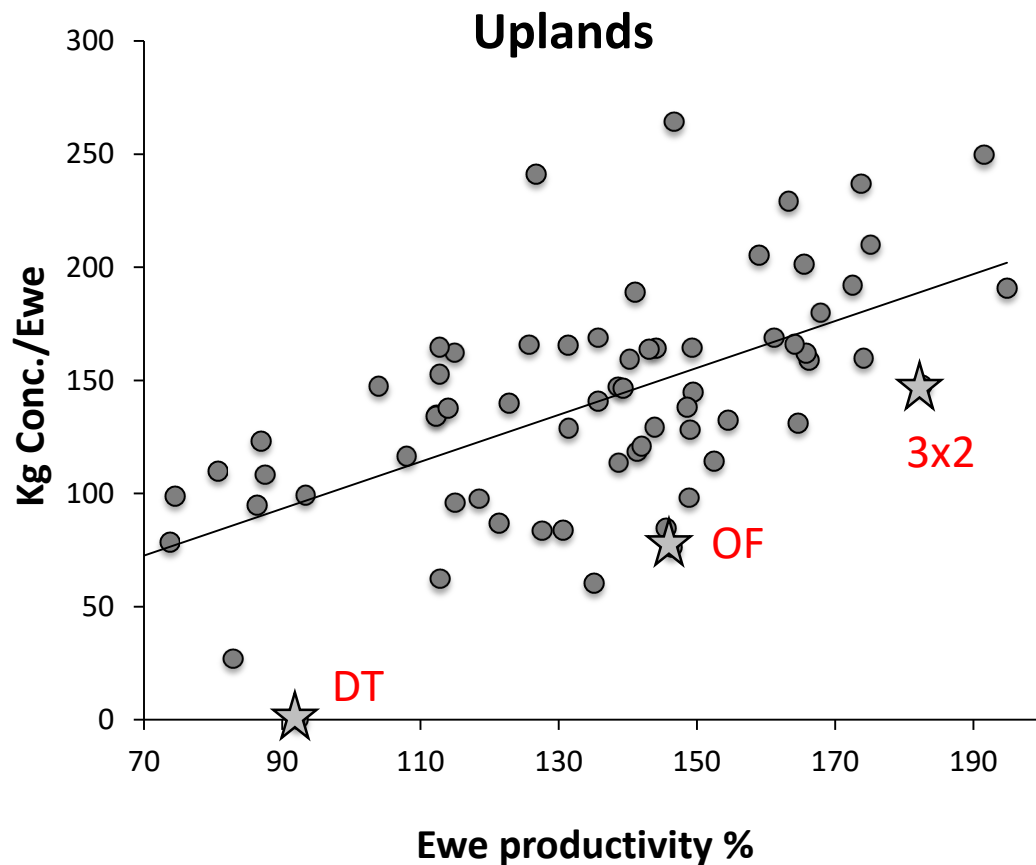


- What strategies?
- What results? Technical, economic, environmental, feed-food
- What consequences?

Choice of 5 farming systems

Ewe productivity : Major impact
Concentrate use

1482 years- farms (1987-2016) - 118 farms (12 years in average)



5 contrasting farming systems 1/2



Irel Belclare



Graz
Mouton Vendéen
Texel

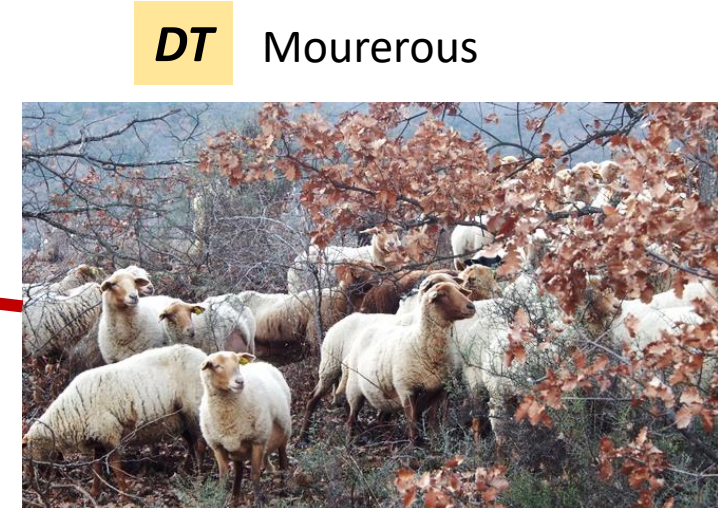


3x2
Rava x Ile de France

ΕΠΙΧΕΙΡΗΣΕΙΣ ΑΓΕΛΩΝ – EFFICIENT sheep farming systems



OF Limousine



DT Mourerous

Simulation tool and performance indicators

OSTRAL (simulation tool)

- **Standardisation**
 - Economic situation (2015)
 - Adequation of equipments
- **Extrapolation for Irel. System**
(60 → 420 ewes)
- **Indicators calculation**

[Technical indicators (flock perf.; feeding; ...)]

- **Feed/food competition**
(protein) (*Ertl et al 2015, Wilkinson 2011...*)
- **Economics**
 - Net Income /worker
 - Added value /worker
 - Net Income/assets
- **Environment**
 - N balance
 - Gross and Net GHG emissions/kg carc (LCA)
 - MJ/kg carc (LCA)
- **Market adequacy**
 - Lambs selling Regularity
 - Lambs Conformation

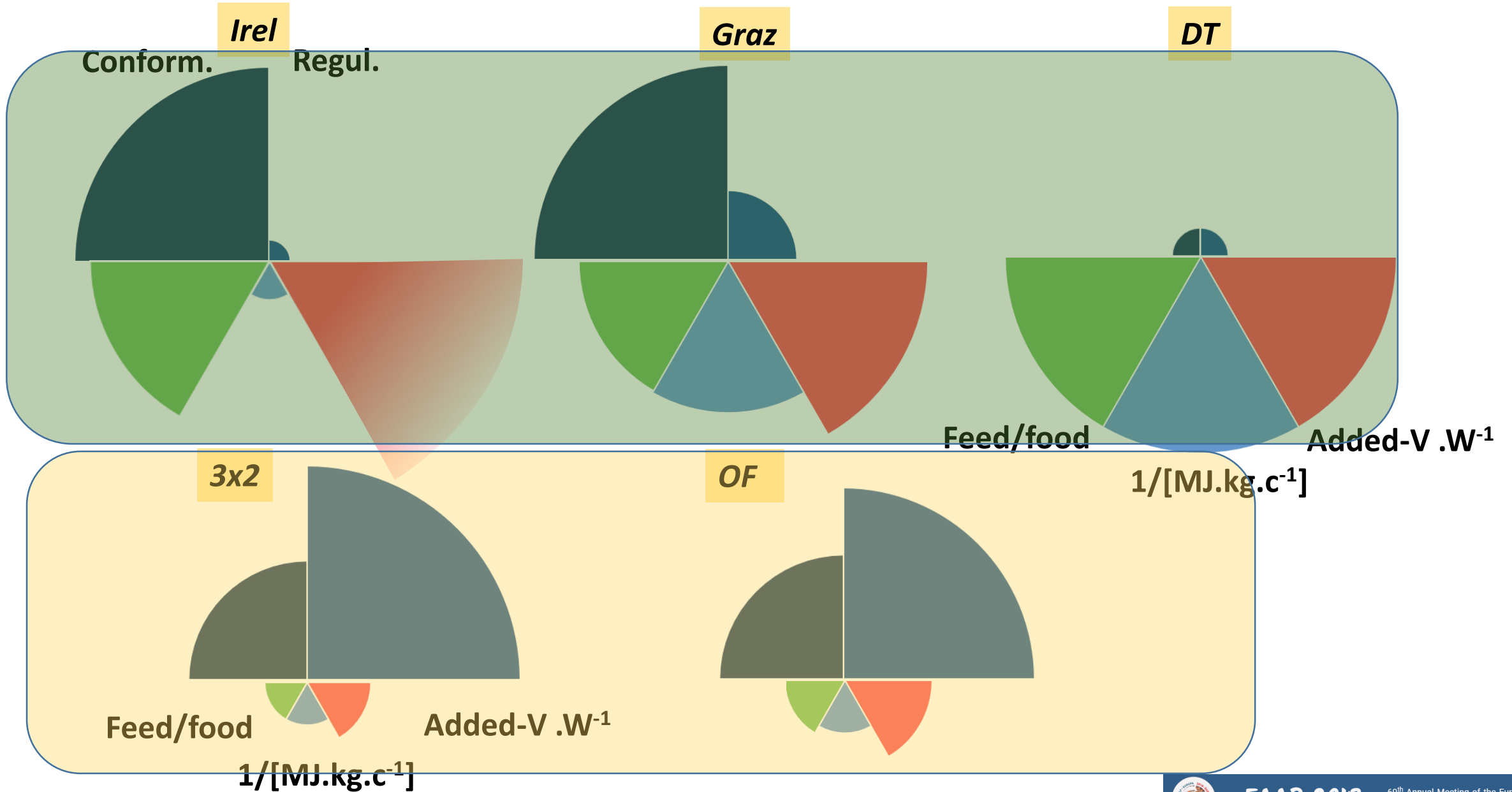
Main characteristics and performances

	Irel	Graz	3x2	OF	DT
No ewe (>6 mths)	420	541	470	405	2105
Stocking rate (ewe/ha Fodder Area)	11.4	6.6	8.7	4.4	0.5

Ewe productivity (+6mths) (%)	154	133	166	132	82
Ewe mortality (%)	8.3	3.3	5.8	4.8	18.9
Concentrates (kg.kg carc ⁻¹)	1.22	1.55	5.24	3.41	0.00
Fodder self-sufficiency (%)	95	94	78	88	100

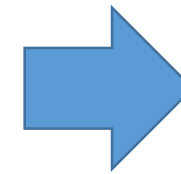
Added value (€·W ⁻¹)	21400 (44000)	31700	19800	22500	31900
Gross GHG emissions (EqCO ₂ .kg carc ⁻¹)	21.7	18.3	22.5	24.8	28.6
Net GHG emissions (EqCO ₂ .kg carc ⁻¹)	19.2	13.7	16.6	8.5	-130.0
Total MJ Non Renew. Energy (MJ.kg carc ⁻¹)	50.6	31.4	50.9	47.6	22.7
Effic. conversion of edible proteins (%)	158	125	33	51	∞

Synthesis of overall performance

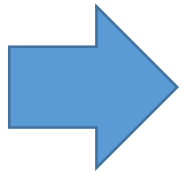


Discussion

- Fodder self-sufficiency
 - **high seasonality** of reprod. & fattening
- Harsh environment and resources
 - rustic breed → **low lamb conformation**



Low market compliance



- Cross organisation between territories ? (regularity)
- Consumers education? ...in relation with labelling, certification and specificities
- Specific markets/consumers (ex: DT lambs for Muslims)

Conclusion

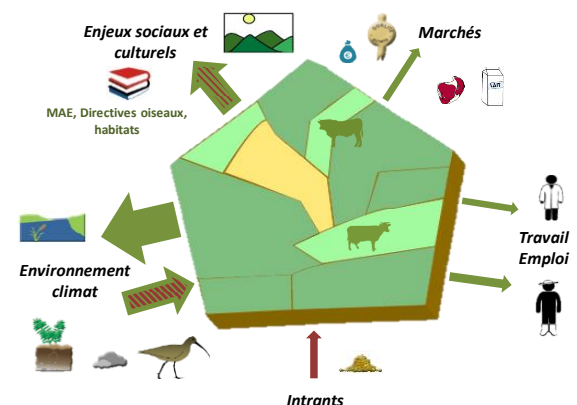
Very high use of fodder resources
// Farm sustainability

Sheep industry standards

Other services and impacts must be studied

Socio-economics, patrimonial aspects, nutritional quality, biodiversity, landscape

→ *Use of Conceptual framework*
(Dumont et al, Animal 2018)



Thank you for your attention



5 contrasting farming systems 2/2

Irel	Graz	3x2	OF	DT
Plain	Plain	Mountain	Mountain	Mountain /pastoral
Oceanic climate	Temperate	Continental	Continental	Mediterranean
Grass-based Intensive pastures (experimental device)	Grass-based system	Intens. Repro. Syst High ewe product	Grass-based Organic farming	Double transhum. 0 → 2500m alt. Harsh conditions
One lambing period (end winter) High meat and N/ha	One lambing period ; grass- fattened lambs No N fertilis.	3 lambing period Lambs indoors	2/3 spring lambings (grass- fattened lambs); 1/3 in autumn	Two lambing periods (March - October) No concentrate

Main characteristics and performances

2015
42 farms (Inra)

	Irel	Graz	3x2	OF	DT	Average (High lev.)
Total Agricultural Area (ha)	36.8	81.9	53.9	91.9	4463	110
Stocking rate (ewe/ha Fodder Area)	11.4	6.6	8.7	4.4	0.5	5.3
No ewe (>6 mths)	420	541	470	405	2105	556
Work productivity (eq.Livestock Unit.W ⁻¹)	66.3	54.6	46.0	59.7	72.5	61.5
Ewe productivity (+6mths) (%)	154	133	166	132	82	126
Ewe mortality (%)	8.3	3.3	5.8	4.8	18.9	6.3
Concentrates (kg.kg carc ⁻¹)	1.22	1.55	5.24	3.41	0.00	7.5
Fodder self-sufficiency (%)	95	94	78	88	100	71
Added value (€.W ⁻¹)	21400 (44000)	31700	19800	22500	31900	19900
Gross GHG emissions (EqCO ₂ .kg carc ⁻¹)	21.7	18.3	22.5	24.8	28.6	30.1
Net GHG emissions (EqCO ₂ .kg carc ⁻¹)	19.2	13.7	16.6	8.5	-130.0	20.1
Total MJ Non Renew. Energy (MJ.kg carc ⁻¹)	50.6	31.4	50.9	47.6	22.7	71
Effic. conversion of edible proteins (%)	158	125	33	51	∞	30 ??

Stakes representation

