

French regional project SO-PERFECTS

Trial results : identification of success criteria for spring mating and the interest of shearing lambs fed on grass then returned to the barn.

M. Bernard^{1,2}, L. Sagot^{1,2}, A. S. Thudor¹, C. Douine¹, M. Miquel², M. Goyenette¹, D. Gautier^{1,2}

¹CIIRPO, 87800 Saint Priest Ligoure, France, mickael.bernard@idele.fr

²Institut de l'élevage, 75595 Paris, France.

So_perfects



Identification of success criteria for spring mating

Advisors have observed that the results of spring mating vary greatly from one farm to another, and also from one year to the next on the same farm. In many cases, the causes are not clearly identified.

And that's why the FAG has decided to work on this topic.

So_perfects



Study area and methodology

- 9 farmers from 3 departments
- Two years of monitoring
- 3459 ewes monitored from the Romane, Limousine and Grivette breeds (fertility 71%)
- 14 criteria studied (BSC and its evolution during mating, the interval between lambing and mating, the birth period, etc.)



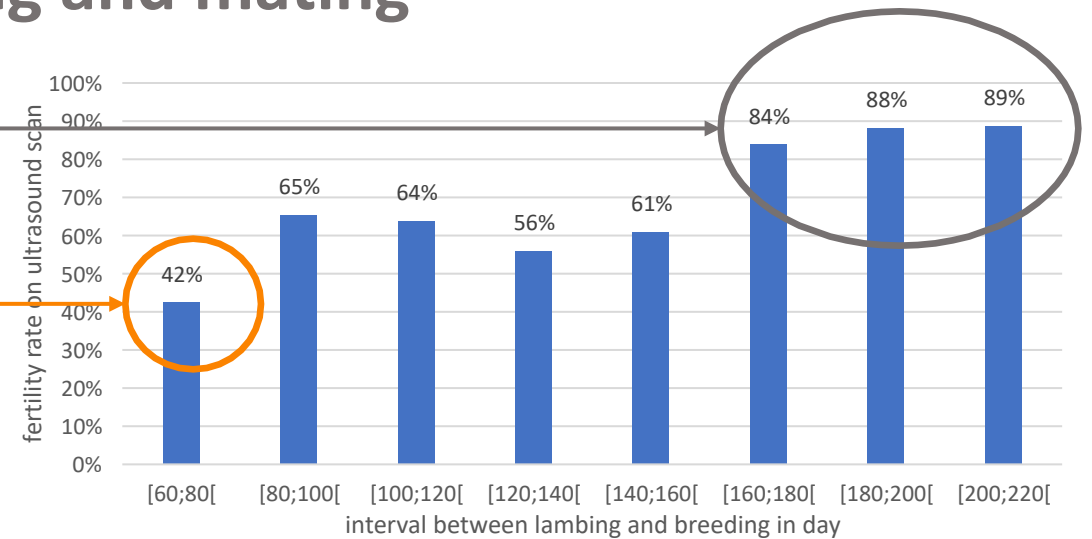
So_perfects



Main criteria :

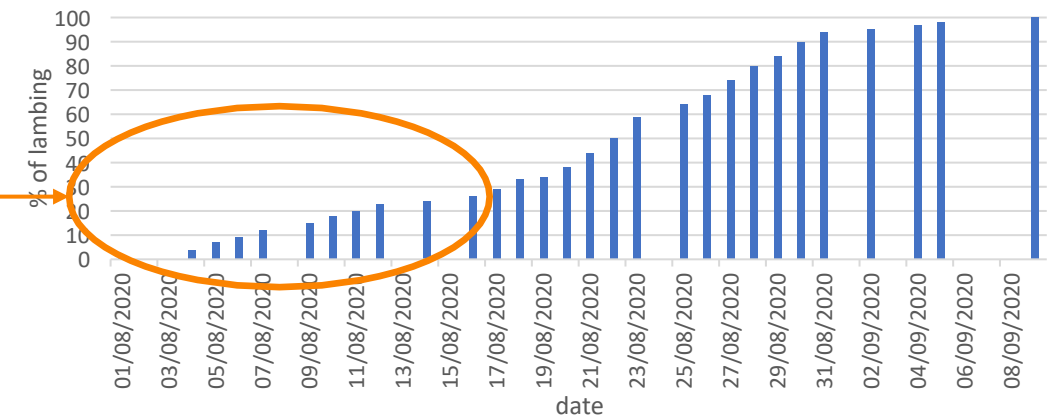
Interval between lambing and mating

- Better fertility with one lambing a year
- Below 80 days of poor results



Mating period duration

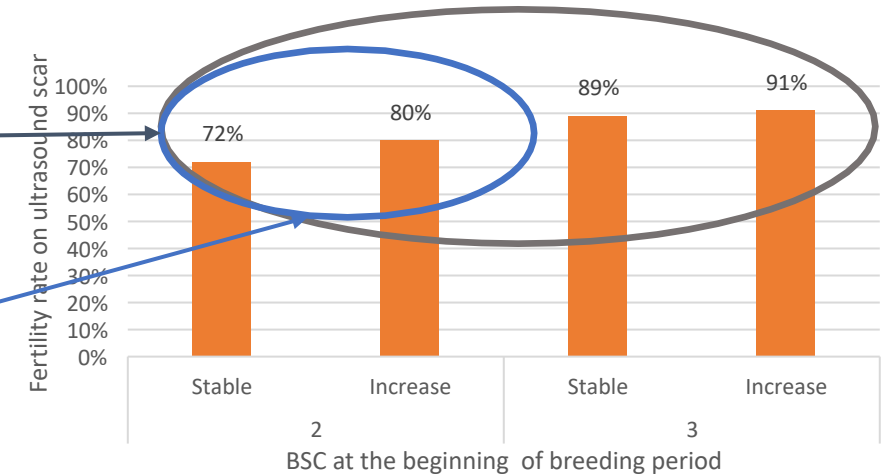
- At least three cycles (51 d)
- Low fertility in the first cycle



Main criteria :

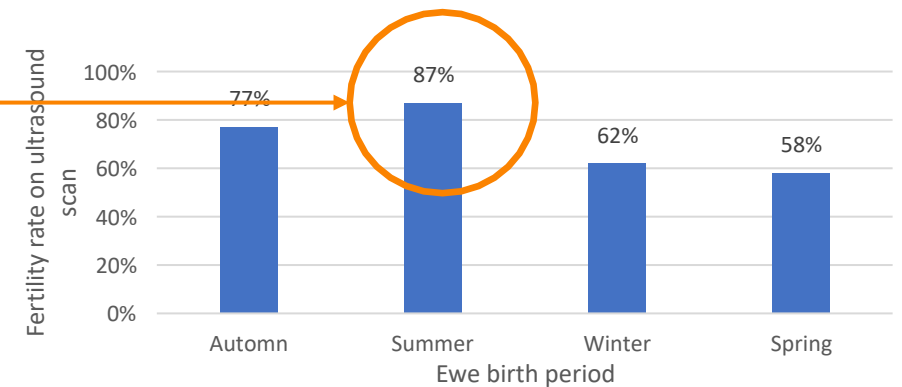
The body score condition

- Better fertility with a good BSC
- better fertility with a BSC that increases during the mating period



Ewe birth period

- Better fertility with ewes born during the spring mating period
- But results need to be confirmed



Deliverables available for this topic

- A 28-page booklet
- 1 slide show
- 1 technical sheet
- 1 webinar, available in replay
- Coming soon, motion design available on Innovin website
- 1 poster
- 1 press article in Pâtre magazine

So_perfects



The interest of shearing lambs fed on grass then returned to the barn

Savings on concentrates and the lambs' welfare are the two main reasons why farmers shear their lambs when they return to the barn. However, few recent references exist on the topic.

And that's why the FAG has decided to work on this topic.

So_perfects



Study area and methodology

- 7 trials in an experimental station and farms in Creuse and Haute Vienne
- Trials carried out between 2020 and 2022
- 448 lambs were divided into two groups, sheared or not at the entrance to the barn
- Different measurements were made on the animals regarding performance, feeding, cleanliness and animal welfare.



So_perfects



Contrasting performance results

- In 3 trials, no or a negative impact of shearing on performance, especially carcass weight

Trial	Farm 1	Mourier experimental farm	
Summer	2020	2020	2021
Lamb number per trial	2 X 24	2 X 25	2 X 27
Shearing age	152 d	182 d	108 d
Shearing weight	29,2 kg	33,4 kg	28,7 kg
Difference in carcass weight sheared / unsheared	-1,5 kg	0	0
Difference in fattening duration sheared / unsheared animals	-4 d	-4 d	0

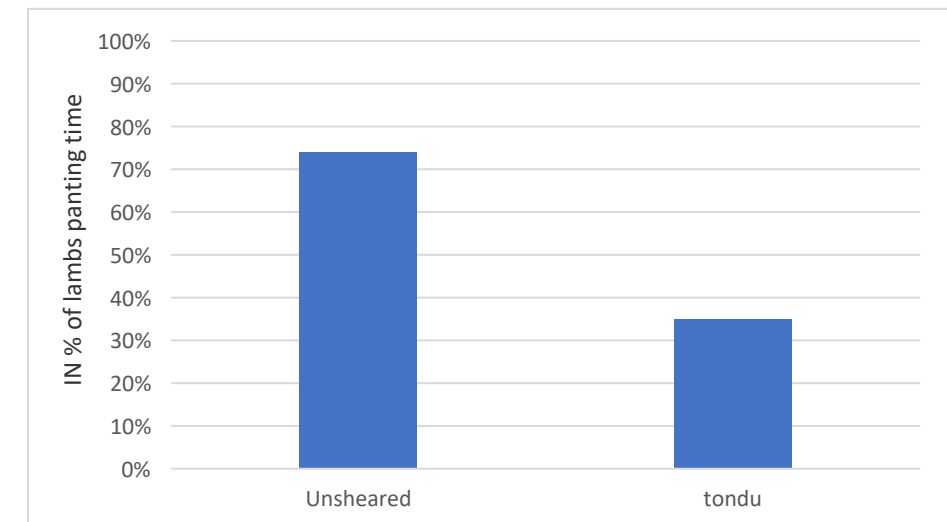
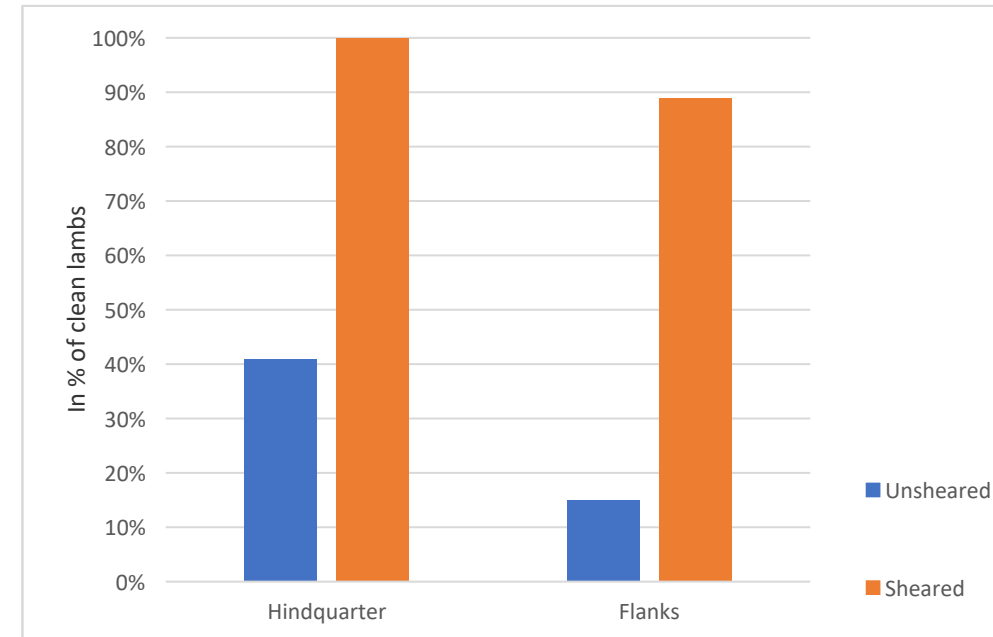
- In the 4 other trials, a slight positive impact on carcass weight.

Trial	Farm 2	Farm 3	Farm 4	Farm 5
Summer	2020	2020	2021	2022
Lamb number per trial	2X 27	2 X 33	2 X 37	2 X 46
Shearing age	132 d	162 d	98 d	137 d
Shearing weight	26,6 kg	29,3 kg	29,1 kg	25,0 kg
Difference in carcass weight Sheared / unsheared	+0,7 kg	+0,9 kg	+0,3 kg	+0,6 kg
Difference in fattening duration sheared / unsheared animals	0	-4 d	-11 d	-3 d



Impact on the lambs' welfare and cleanliness

- Cleaner sheared lambs on the flanks and hindquarters.
- Their welfare is improved by reducing panting time by half.



Deliverables available for this topic

- A 28-page booklet
- 1 technical sheet
- 1 poster

So_perfects



Thank you for your attention

View slideshows of our conferences at
idele.fr



<https://idele.fr/ciirpo/>

<https://idele.fr/detail-article/innovations-et-nouvelles-pratiques-agroecologiques-recueil-des-communications-de-la-journee-de-restitution-so-perfects-du-10-fevrier>

So_perfects

