Solution

Transabdominal ultrasound scanning for detection of pregnancy in sheep with foetal count

October 30, 2017
Gilles Lagriffoul
TOPIC:

- Reproduction
- Lamb mortality “management”
- Gestation
- Lamb mortality “ewe-lamb”

ISSUE: Pregnancy diagnosis (scanning): more information on benefits

Solution name: Transabdominal ultrasound scanning for detection of pregnancy in sheep with foetal count

Country: France

Dairy or/and meat sheep: Dairy and meat sheep

Source of information: IDELE INRA ANIO CIIRPO

Level of solution:

- Knowledge
- Practical
- Just Being Tested

Aim: Using transabdominal ultrasound scanning for detection of pregnancy and foetal count, for a better management of pregnant ewes.

Description:

- In sheep farming, trans-abdominal ultrasound scanning is a practical and efficient approach for pregnancy detection, with the better performance/cost ratio. From 40-45 days of pregnancy, pregnancy status can be established. Counting foetuses, foetal aging or detection of abnormalities are also possible.
- The scanners, more and more improved, allows levels of resolution which facilitate the reading and acquisition of information.
- The result, immediately available (ewes marking or sorting, expected fertility and prolificacy), allows a better management of pregnant ewes.
- For a better management of the reproductive career of the ewes, a record of the scanning is recommended (for ex. To cull ewes non pregnant 2 times). Tools using RFID can facilitate this registration

Expected benefits: a monitoring of pregnancy for identification of non-pregnant ewes or better management of ewes according to litter size or gestation stage.

Prerequisites and/or limits : Have an adapted scanner for sheep and a suitable system of restraint. The operator have to be well trained and with sufficient practice. At the farm level, record the information in a sheepfold book to have a reasoned management of the non-pregnant ewes.