Ram management during reproduction season

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ROMANIA SOLUTIONS

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TOPIC:

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

ISSUE: Ram management

Solution name: Ram management during reproduction season

Country: Romania

Dairy or/and meat sheep: Dairy and meat

Source of information: Industry and research

Level of solution:

- X Knowledge
- X Practical
- Just Being Tested

Aim: Achieve high fertility of rams and an increase of the overall conception rates

Description:

- Body condition score (BCS) of rams to be between 3.5 and 4 at the onset of the reproduction season (avoid under and over feeding of rams).
- Scrotal circumference of rams when joined to the ewes should be higher than 29 cm in yearling rams and at least 33 cm in adult rams.
- To increase the sperm production, especially during out of season breeding 1 to 3 melatonin subcutaneous implants can be used (18 mg/implant) with 35-40 days before joining.
- Rams should not be used for mating continuously longer than 2 estrus cycles (34 days), they need to removed from the breeding flock for at least 5 to 7 days, before reintroduction.
- Ram libido and mating behavior should be monitored at the onset of the reproduction season.

Expected benefits: 5 to 10 % higher fertility rates within the flock.

Prerequisites and/or limits (knowledge, training, capabilities, cost, management, facilities, equipment, etc.)

- Training on how to BCS the rams and to evaluate scrotal circumference
- Designated stock person to observe mating intensity in the flock and monitor the body condition of the rams during entire mating system.
- Ram harness is a useful tool to monitor ram libido.
- Melatonin implants costs range between 2 to 3 EUR.