



# THE LACAUNE DAIRY



Lacaune dairy is the most important sheep breed in France :  
850,000 ewes (50% of French dairy ewes).

## *A local breed*

95% of the overall flock is located in their traditional pastureland

## *A mountain breed*

90% of the overall flock is located in mountain areas in the Massif Central

## *An international recognized breed*

The breed is present in 25 countries on 5 continents



Geographical location of the place of origin of the Lacaune Dairy breed, « Le Rayon de Roquefort »

## Organization

UPRA Lacaune, the breed society for the Lacaune breed, is responsible for the coordination of selection activities, the approval and the morphological checks of breeding animals, the keeping of the genealogical book, and is also responsible for performance testing and genetic evaluation.

The breed selection program is implemented by two Selection Companies : « **Confédération de Roquefort, Service Elevage** » (the Roquefort Confederation breeding department) and the “**Coopérative**



**Ovi-Test**” (the Ovi-Test Cooperative). They are tasked with genetic monitoring for their selector breeders, managing the selection tools (ram breeding centres and artificial insemination centers) and managing the distribution of breeding animals and semen.

## The selection programme's objectives

### The Synthetic Index of Dairy Sheep

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Milk quantity</li><li>• Milk richness (TB and TP)</li></ul>      | } | Quality characteristics (50%)                      |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Somatic cells concentration</li><li>• Udder morphology</li></ul> |   | Morphological and functional characteristics (50%) |

## Genetic progress

Annual genetic progress in terms of production characteristics over the past 10 years is :

- 5,4 litres per year for milk quantity
- 0.25g/litre fat content
- 0.19g/litre protein content

Somatic cells and udder morphology have been improving since 2006.

The genetic program has enabled us to adapt the breed to the production constraints in their environment, resulting in improved feed efficiency for ewes and a simplified workload for the breeder thanks to a greater ease of milking.

Genetically improved scrapie resistance has also been achieved. Since 2003, all the breed's rams are homozygous-resistant (ARR/ARR) and 98% of the ewes now carry a resistance allele.



# Selection programme

# Genomic selection

Since 2015, the Genomic selection is used to predict the genetic value of genotyped rams very early, without waiting for the results of their descendants.

All the Lacaune lambs which enter the insemination centre are genotyped. So, the use of genomic selection resulted a 30% increase of the selection schema's efficiency.

*The Lacaune breed is the first ovine breed in the world to use genomic selection !*



## CLO SELECTORS Official Dairy Control

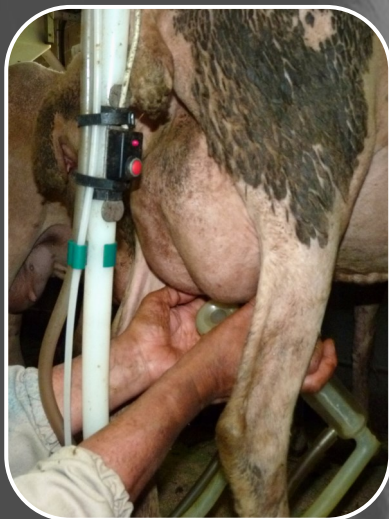
- 373 breeders
- 185,000 ewes

## CLS USERS Simplified Dairy Control

- 1,189 breeders
- 511,564 ewes

## USERS No Control

- 363 breeders
- 150,500 ewes



# Performances

Reference of 185,168 ewes and 373 selected flocks in 2019 :

Production: 330 liters in 173 days

Fat content : 75g/liter

Protein content : 56g/liter

Renewal rate : 28%

Artificially inseminated ewes per farm : 86.6%

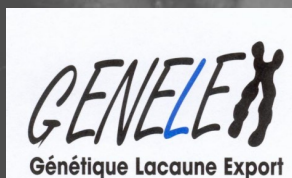
Overall fertility : 94.9% (AI + natural reproduction)

Overall prolificacy: 1.56 lambs per parturition



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