Development of a management information system for sheep

G. Kern, I. Traulsen and J. Krieter
Institute of Animal Breeding and Husbandry, Christian-Albrechts-University of Kiel, Germany

Objective

Husbandry and management have to be adapted specifically to support and optimise the decision of the farmer with regard to animal health, a prolific performance, animal welfare and economical traits. Within the project “Development of preventive measures for the promotion of health and longevity in sheep on organic farms” a management information system (MIS) was generated.

At the moment, the MIS will be adapted on specific biological conditions of the primary purposes meat, dairy and landscape to optimise management decisions. Additionally, a mobile system will be developed for data collection in the stables.

Table of functions

- Overview of flock with sheets
- Individual information including pedigree
- Manual and automatic number allocation of earmarks
- Process sheets
- Management of different groups within the flock
- Dictionary to explain main diseases in sheep husbandry
- Decision tree technique to detect problems in animal health
- Automatic documentation, e.g. medicinal treatment, and accompanying documents
- Easy user interface
- Support
- Displaying of performance and fertility traits in graphs
- Comparison with other flocks

MIS- How to use?
The MIS is web-based and available at sheep.tierzucht.uni-kiel.de

After registration, the MIS can be used by any shepherd without charge. At the moment, about 80 farmers with 7,000 animals are registered.