Les Ressources Génétiques Ovines au Maroc
(Sheep Genetic Resources in Morocco)

This book, written in French, describes in great detail the most popular Moroccan breeds of sheep, the Timahdite, the Beni Guil, the Sardi, the D’man, the Beni Absen, the Boujaad and the Mountain sheep.

The first chapter is general and gives statistics on historic numbers of sheep in Morocco from 1914 to the present estimates of 17.5 million and the distribution of these sheep among the various regions in Morocco. A general section on the origin of the various breeds is presented.

For each breed, the information is classified under the following headings: origin, geographic distribution, phenotypic description, reproductive performance, production in terms of meat wool and milk, adaptation to surrounding environment, polymorphism of blood proteins, and genetic and phenotypic parameters. Each breed is also illustrated with colored photographs of rams and ewes.

The last chapters deal with genetic improvement of sheep in Morocco. In one chapter the author presents the different programs in force in Morocco, the first to improve the productivity of the flocks, the second is selection through control of performance and identification of superior individuals. The author also gave the constraints influencing the sheep genetic improvement in Morocco. The book ends with a chapter on future perspectives of sheep in Morocco.

The list of references covers almost all the research work on sheep breeding in Morocco.

The book is neatly produced and illustrated with many figures and tabulated information. It is an important source of information on the Moroccan breeds and research work conducted on them.

This book is available from the Department of Animal Production, Institute of Agronomique et Vétérinaire Hassan II, Box 6206 Rabat-Instituts,10101 Rabat, Morocco.

M.H. Fahmy*
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Lennoxville Research Center
Lennoxville, Que
Canada J1M 1Z3

* Tel./fax: +1-613-792-1838
E-mail address: mhfahmy@yahoo.com

PII: S 0 9 2 1 -4488(00)00201-7

Milking and Milk Production of Dairy Sheep and Goats.

This book is the proceedings of the 6th International Symposium on the Milking of Small Ruminants held in Athens, Greece from 26 September to 1 October, 1998. This series of proceedings is a valuable source of information on all aspects of dairy sheep and goat and provides state of the art information on the subject. The book is intended mainly for scientist working in this field.

In his opening address, J.C. Flamant of France gave an account of the history of the series of symposia on the milking of small ruminants and details on the first three meetings held in France (1973), Italy (1978) and Spain (1983). In total, 46 papers were presented in plenary sessions and 75 papers were presented as posters.

Papers were presented and published in either English (99) or French (22). Full papers ranged between 4 and 8 pages in length whereas posters ranged between 2 and 4 pages. The papers were grouped under six major topics.
The first topic was “Physiological aspects of milk secretion” (10 papers, 6 posters). Several papers dealt with comparisons between Lacaune and Manchega ewes in different physiological aspects of milk secretion, a few dealt with the role of oxytocin and other hormones. Of the 16 presentations in this session, five dealt with goats.

The second topic was “Mammary pathology and milking” (9 papers, 10 posters). Several papers dealt with somatic cell counts, mastitis, effect of udder inflammation, mammary gland infections and sensitivity to drug treatments. Six of the papers dealt with goats, 11 with sheep and two with small ruminants in general.

The third topic was “Milking machines and milking management” (6 papers, 5 posters). Most papers in this session dealt with the milking machine design, installation, construction, parameters, test systems and field tests.

The fourth topic was “Milking and dairy production systems” (6 papers, 21 posters). Papers in this session dealt with the effect on milking and milk production of: partial milking, partial suckling, milking frequency, stage of lactation, type of birth, plan of nutrition, early weaning, behavioral reaction among others. Some posters presented production systems and milking economics in various countries. Ten of the papers in this session dealt with goats, 15 with sheep and two with both sheep and goats.

The fifth topic was “Milk recording and genetics” (9 papers, 20 posters). Of the nine papers, four and two posters dealt with genetics of udder morphology of sheep and goats, three with genetics of somatic cell count and two with systems. The topics of the posters included: selection based on lactation curve model, effect of breed and parity on dairy traits of goats, genetic evaluation of goat milk, somatic cell counts, udder traits and milk composition of various sheep genotypes, milk recording, and lactation curve.

The last topic was “Milking and milk quality” (6 papers, 13 posters). The papers in this session dealt with influence of somatic cell count on quality of sheep and goat milk, change in milk and cheese composition during lactation, influence of milking machine on quality of goat milk. The posters dealt with: milk quality at the end of lactation, influence of storage time on quality of yoghurt and β-lactoglobulin on milk composition and cheese yield, milk characteristics of various goat breeds, bacterial contamination of raw milk and lipase activity in different goat breeds.

A complete list of participants and their postal address is included, but unfortunately no subject index was prepared. The book is neatly produced and bound according to the traditional high standards of Wageningen Pers.

M.H. Fahmy
Lennoxville Research Center
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Lennoxville Que., Canada J1M 1Z3

E-mail address: mhfahmy@yahoo.com
(M.H. Fahmy)

PII: S 0 9 2 1 -4488(00)00204-2