Sm@ll Ruminant Technologies

Pregnancy Scanner

Need:

- Scanning and grouping ewes for managing appropriate nutrition
- Distribution/management of concentrate allocation during lambing
- Lambing records/ewe performance
- Deciding on feeding groups/Link between the state of the animals & feeding

Aim:

- Determine ewe pregnancy and litter size, to facilitate nutrition management

Description:

Ewes can be scanned to diagnose pregnancy and expected litter size. This facilitates nutrition management pre-lambing. Expected lambing date can also be determined.

How to Implement:

A trained operator uses an ultrasound scanner and specially designed crate to quickly identify pregnancy and/or expected litter size. Ewes are marked to record litter size and barreness, and EID recording may be used.

This tech benefits me because it requires no investment and isn't expensive. It saves money in concentrate costs too.

FARMER FROM IRELAND

This tech works for me because it allows me to identify and sell barren ewes before lambing and feed pregnant ewes according to their expected litter size.

FARMER FROM IRELAND

Country:

Ireland

Production System (dairy or/and meat sheep/goat):

Meat and dairy sheep and goats

Category of Animal (ewe, goat, replacement, lamb, kid):

Mature ewes, female goats and replacements

Source of Information:

https://techcare-project.eu/

Attachment/links:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ActZdYMIIfk

Expected Benefits:

- Quick, stress free and undertaken with sheep in standing position in a designated crate.
- Identifies barren ewes that can be culled or sold.
- To facilitate nutrition management in late pregnancy. Ewes can be grouped according to expected litter size to avoid under or over nutrition.

Costs and Challenges

- Ewes should be restricted from feed for about 10 hours in advance of scanning
- Availability of trained operator with equipment
- Facilities to group and manage ewes according to expected litter size pre-lambing

- A contractor completes the scanning so no investment needed by the farmer.
- Can be used with performance recording application/software to develop data set of individual and flock performance.

- Ease of use? Scale 1 (Complicated) – 10 (Simple)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 **9** 10

- Value for money (for this type of benchmark farm)? Yes
- Recommend this tool/technology for use on other types of farm? Yes

★★★

It would take 3 years for a peak adoption rate of 97%.