

# Automatic feeders

**Need:** Concentrate distribution at milking or in the box

**Aim:** Collecting individual feed intake animal data

**Description:**

- Sheep are identified using their ear tags.
- If the animal is allowed access to a specific manger the gate goes down. When the allowed access time for that period is over, the access gate goes up, pushing the animal away from the manger so that another animal can get to the gate.
- The weight of the manger is measured before and after animal access and the weight difference is transferred to the central computer for analysis.

**How to Implement:**

- You need to have all your animals tagged.
- The manger is placed on a frame and rests on two electronic load cells. By turning the manger, it is easy to empty and clean it.
- BioControl's PC Program extracts data of individual animal.



**Country:**

Italy



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

Dairy sheep and goat

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

Ewes and goats

**Source of Information:**

<https://techcare-project.eu/>

**Attachment/links:**

<https://youtu.be/FNC1csOd6p4>

*I think this is a very useful technology that still requires a lot of skills for its use*

FARMER FROM ITALY




### Expected Benefits:

- The system enables to feed animals according to their individual requirements even if they share the same pen.
  - To feed different rations to different animals in the same group. The system will automatically close the gate when the animal has reached the expected intake of its ration
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### Costs and Challenges

- All animals need an EID tag and a PC management program is needed
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- Set up costs ~ > 15,000 Euro
- Subscription required: No
- Ease of use? Scale 1 (Complicated) – 10 (Simple)  

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



It would take 5 years for 17 % adoption.

