The Cyprus Sheep And Goat Sector

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Introduction

The sheep and goat sector:

• Important part of animal production in Cyprus

• Contributes ~18% to the total value of animal production

• Faces challenges of different types

• Does not fulfill its full economic and production potential
Breed Composition of Sheep

- **58% Chios and Fat-tailed Crosses**
- **39% Chios**
- **3% Cyprus Fat-tailed**
Breed Composition of Goats

28% Damascus

17% Local Breeds

55% Damascus and Local Breed Crosses
Sheep and Goat Populations

**Sheep population**
- Stabilised around 300,000
- 30-year record low between 1995-2000 (mean 244,000)

**Goat population**
- 280,000 in 2009, exhibiting downward trend
- 30-year record high between 1999-2003 (mean 404,000)

- Recent population changes associate with management of scrapie disease
- Population trends correlate with meat and milk production
Sheep and goat products

**Meat production**

- Covers ~90% of consumer demand
- Corresponds to 7% of total meat production
- Contributes 10% to the total value of animal production
Sheep and goat products

Meat

- Tons

- Year

- Sheep

- Goats
Sheep and goat products

• Animals slaughtered

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lambs</td>
<td>134 484</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kids</td>
<td>140 997</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Majority of lambs and kids slaughtered at 3-6 months old
- Increased demand around Christmas and Easter

• Carcass categories

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Category (months)</th>
<th>Percentage Slaughtered</th>
<th>Average Carcass Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-3</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>13.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-6</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>15.0-18.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-9</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>25.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9-12</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>35.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Value of sheep and goat products

## Quantities and Values

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Quantity (tons)</th>
<th>Value (€ 000’s)</th>
<th>Total value (€ 000’s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sheep</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meat</td>
<td>3337</td>
<td>14294 (47.8 %)</td>
<td>29909</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milk</td>
<td>18136</td>
<td>15615 (52.2%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goat</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meat</td>
<td>3874</td>
<td>16097 (54.9 %)</td>
<td>29332</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milk</td>
<td>24581</td>
<td>13225 (45.1%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Sheep and goat milk:**

- Corresponds to 22% of total milk production in Cyprus
- Contributes 8% to the total value of animal production
Value of sheep and goat products

**Meat**

Unit Value (euros/kg)

- **Lamb**
- **Kid**
- **Mutton**
- **Goat**

Year

- 2004
- 2005
- 2006
- 2007
- 2008
Farm-gate price of raw milk

Milk

Unit Value (euros/kg)

Year

2004 2005 2006 2007 2008

Sheep Goat Cow
# Sheep and Goat Farm Description

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Animals Kept</th>
<th>Average flock size</th>
<th>Percentage of total farm units (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sheep</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goats</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheep &amp; Goats</td>
<td>198 (106 &amp; 92)</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Only 20% of milk produced is processed on farm

**Main products:**
- Local haloumi cheese
- Yogurt
- Anari (whey cheese)
Trends and Challenges for the Sheep and Goat Sector

- Declining number of farming units
  - 34% reduction from 2000 to 2008

- Ageing farmers’ population

- Variable climatic conditions
  - roughage production
  - natural vegetation availability

- Farming systems not sustainable as implemented

- Family business a strong element of sheep and goat farming
Farming Systems

a) Semi-intensive (high input)
   - High input in capital (animal feed) and labour
   - Less investment in infrastructure and technology
   ❖ Sensitive to fluctuations in feed prices

b) Semi-extensive (medium input)
   - Restricted use of natural vegetation
   - Roughage and silage production (rain-fed crops)
   ❖ Sensitive to climate change (e.g. drought effects)

c) Extensive (low input)
   - Exploitation of natural vegetation
   - Concentrate supplements during critical periods
   ❖ Only 5-10% of farms (mostly goats)
**DoMesTIc Aims and Prospects**

Which actions are needed to ensure competitiveness and sustainability?

**A) For sheep and goats:**

- **Breeding healthy, disease resistant animals (e.g. Scrapie)**
  - Assessing genetic management

- **Conservation of local breeds /genetic resources**
  (well-adapted to climatic conditions/changes)
  - Recording the attributes of various farming systems
  - Evaluate traditional knowledge and farmers’ ability to respond to change
Domestic Aims and Prospects

Which actions are needed to ensure competitiveness and sustainability?

B) For sheep and goat products:
- Higher on-farm processing of milk products
- Added value of sheep and goat products

C) For sheep and goat farmers:
- Incentives for young individuals to continue family business
- Guidelines for supporting new sheep and goat farmers
- Enhanced education, knowledge transfer and extension services