

Survey of Canadian sheep and goat producers

Introduction

Background

In the summer of 2023, a survey was done about sheep and goat breeders' participation in various components of Canadian genetic improvement programs, including animal identification, registration, performance recording, use of on-farm management software, and genetic evaluation. In total there were 252 surveys completed. Summaries of the responses are presented separately for meat sheep, meat goats and dairy goats. Please note that several producers raise animals for multiple commodity groups and therefore their comments may be repeated (e.g. the same comment may appear for both meat sheep and meat goats).

The survey was done as part of a project to integrate genetic services across multiple species. This 3-year project is entitled "National integrated genetic services for breeders across multiple species in Canada". Participants in the project include the Canadian Sheep Breeders Association, the Canadian Goat Society, the Canadian Meat Goat Association, the Centre for Genetic Improvement of Livestock (CGIL) at the University of Guelph, the Canadian Centre for Swine Improvement (CCSI), Le Centre d'expertise en production ovine du Québec (CEPOQ), Ontario Sheep Farmers (OSF), the Canadian Livestock Records Corporation (CLRC), AgSights, EweManage and Lactanet. This project has been funded in part by the Government of Canada under Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Canadian Agricultural Strategic Priorities Program. The partners in the project recognize that only a small percentage of sheep and goat producers participate in the available genetic improvement programs. This survey helped to better understand what producers are currently doing and potential ways to increase the level of participation.

Some of the key findings

A high proportion of respondents have indicated that they would like to have additional information on genetic improvement programs; so there is an appetite for good information. Many respondents would like to see that information online.

In particular, there was great interest in "using a website listing performance tested rams or bucks, and their owners' contacts, that would allow you to select the traits that are important to you". Such a website already exists, to a large extent, within both genovis.ca and goatgenetics.ca, so it seems that many producers do not know about these tools even though they already exist in some form.

The criteria that sheep producers use the most for within herd selection decisions are, in order: weaning weight records, number born records, pedigree, visual conformation, health and physical soundness, visual size, etc. Breeding values come only in seventh place behind all the preceding reasons. For selection from other herds (fewer number of respondents), breeding values come after pedigree (by a large margin) and visual conformation.

For dairy goat producers, breeding values come in fourth position behind visual conformation, pedigree and number born records when selecting within herd, and in fourth position behind milk test records, pedigree and classification records when selecting from other herds.

For meat goats, breeding values come in sixth position for selection within herd and fourth position for selection from other herds. However, in the case of meat goats, the situation is different. Since breeding values are not routinely available yet, it is understandable that they would not rank high as a selection criterion.

The above responses illustrate the need for better informing purebred and commercial producers about genetic improvement programs, particularly producers that do not use these programs, or who use them but not to the extent that they can get the full benefit.

Another observation is that most producers are already collecting and recording data using a variety of methods. Making it easy for producers to send this data for use in genetic improvement programs could save time and add value to something they are already doing.

Project activities to help increase participation in genetic improvement programs

The survey results have helped to initiate the following three activities in the final year of the project:

1. Formation of a Communications Advisory Committee composed of producers and a specialist in communications and persuasion from Dalhousie University, Dr. Stanley Asah. The Committee is developing approaches that the Genetic Services Network and member organizations can use to improve communication and increase participation in the programs.
2. Development of a Genetic Services Network website which will have basic information on what is available for sheep and goat genetic improvement services, what the benefits are, how to participate and links for more information from the organizations involved in delivering these services.
3. Producing information on the economic value of genetic improvement for sheep and goats, in particular, how much savings and extra income can be realized from the use of top ranking rams and bucks.

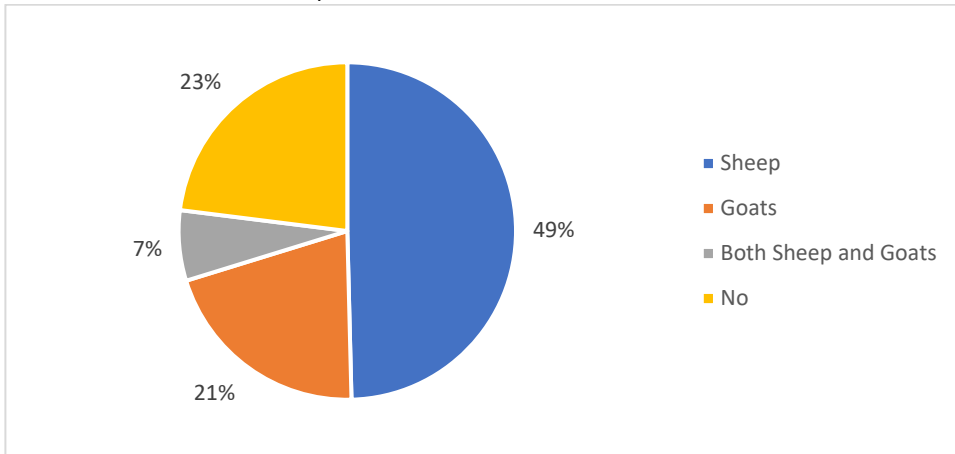
These activities are on-going and will be completed by September of 2024 when the current project is ending. However, the partners in the project have agreed on the creation of a permanent Genetic Services Network that will build on these and other activities that were achieved during the project. An action plan has been developed and the partners are currently exploring options for additional funding to turn the Action Plan into action.

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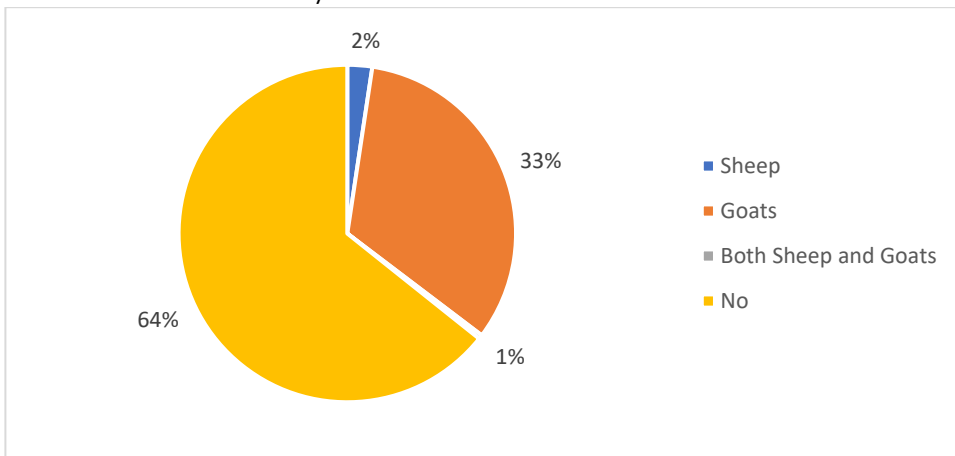
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Which species and commodity groups to you raise?

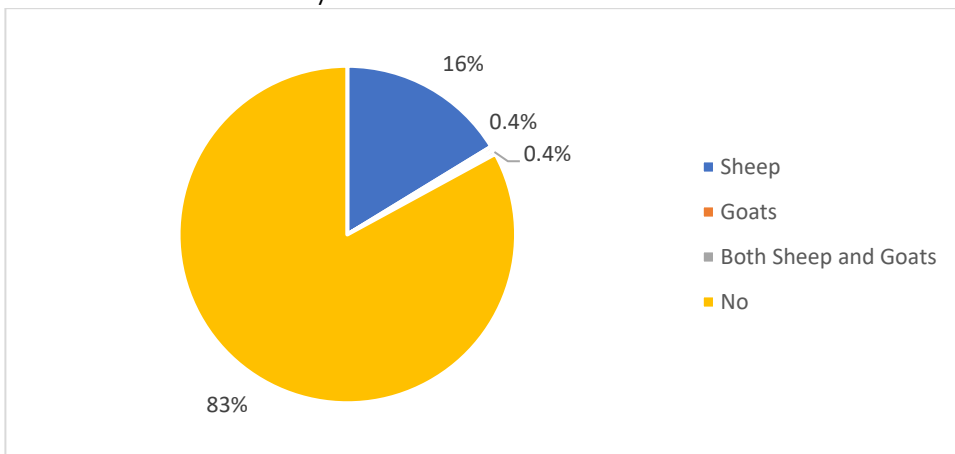
Do you raise animals for MEAT?



Do you raise animals for DAIRY?

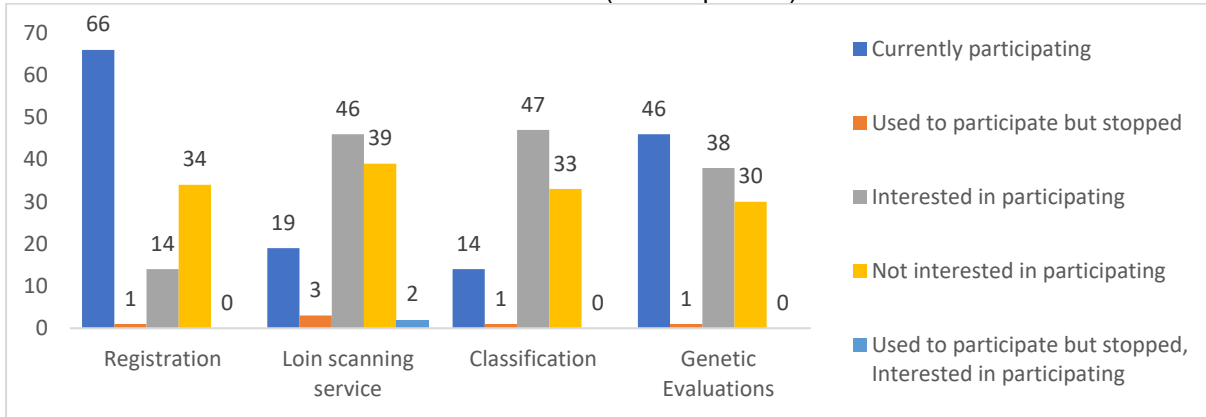


Do you raise animals for FIBRE?

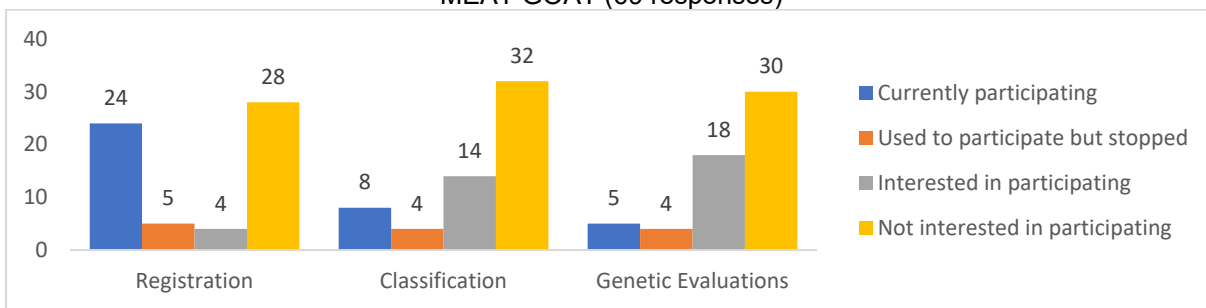


Select which best describes your participation in the following programs:

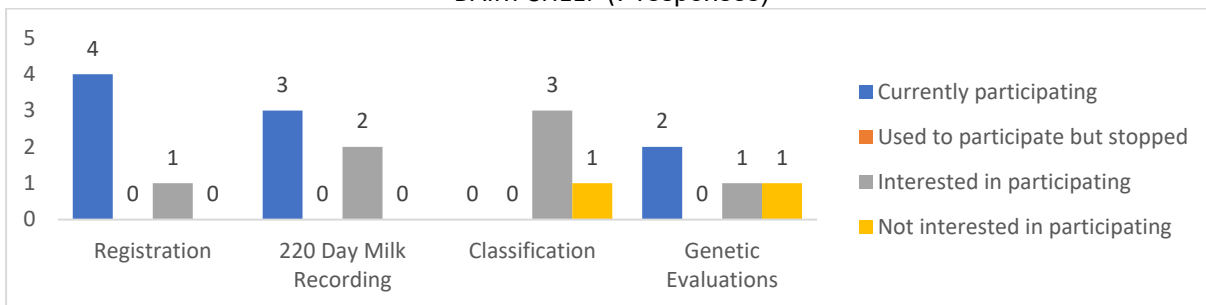
MEAT SHEEP (141 responses)



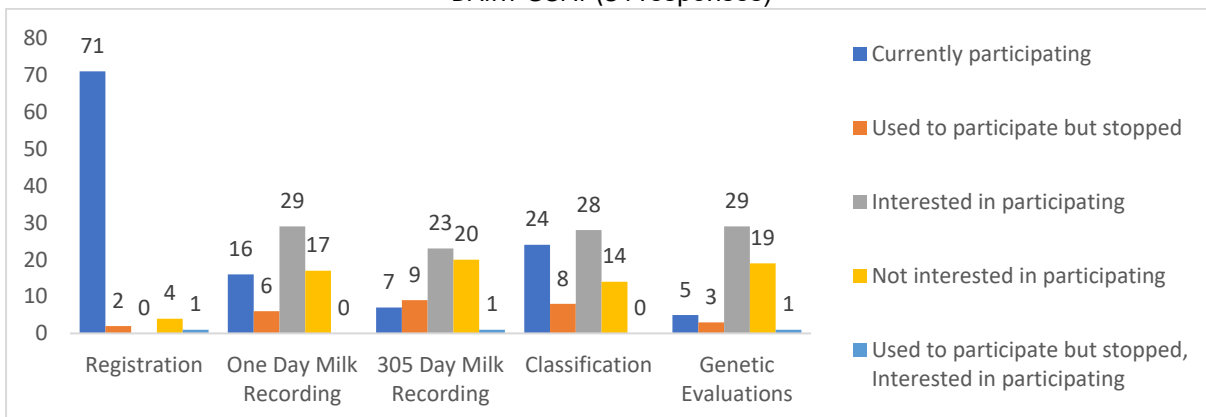
MEAT GOAT (69 responses)



DAIRY SHEEP (7 responses)

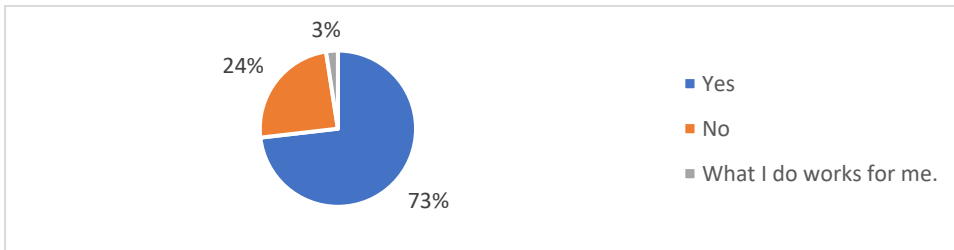


DAIRY GOAT (84 responses)

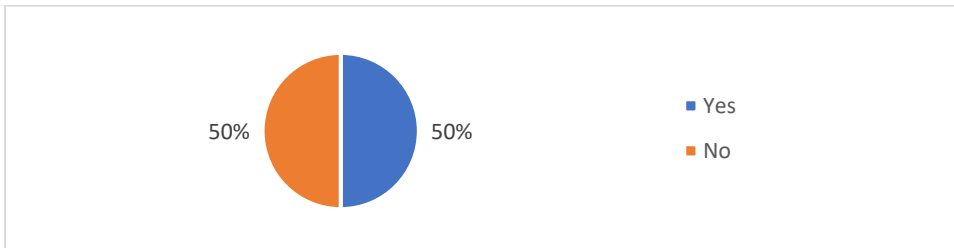


Are you interested in programs to improve wool/fibre production traits?

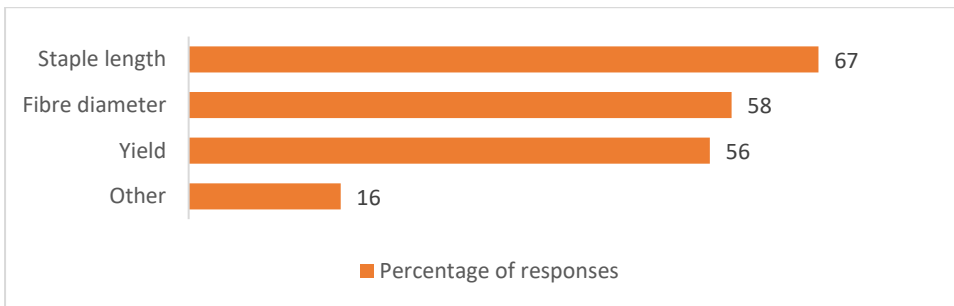
Are you interested in improving the quality of your wool/fibre? (41 responses)



Are you interested in having genetic evaluations of wool/fibre? (42 responses)



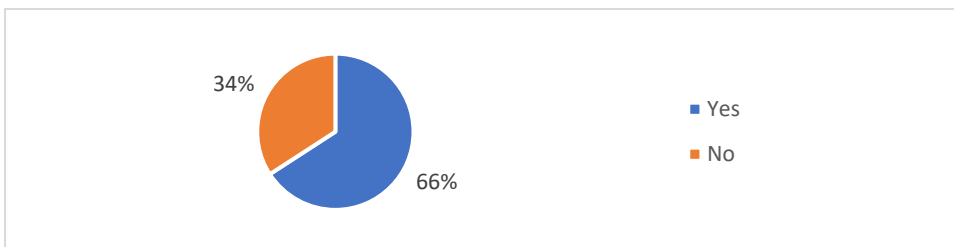
What are the wool/fibre traits of interest? (43 responses)



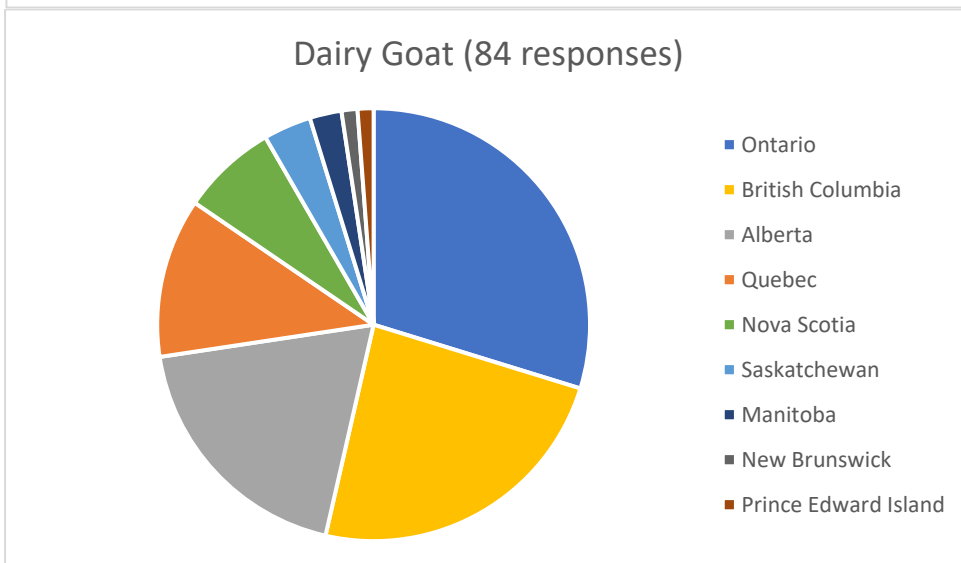
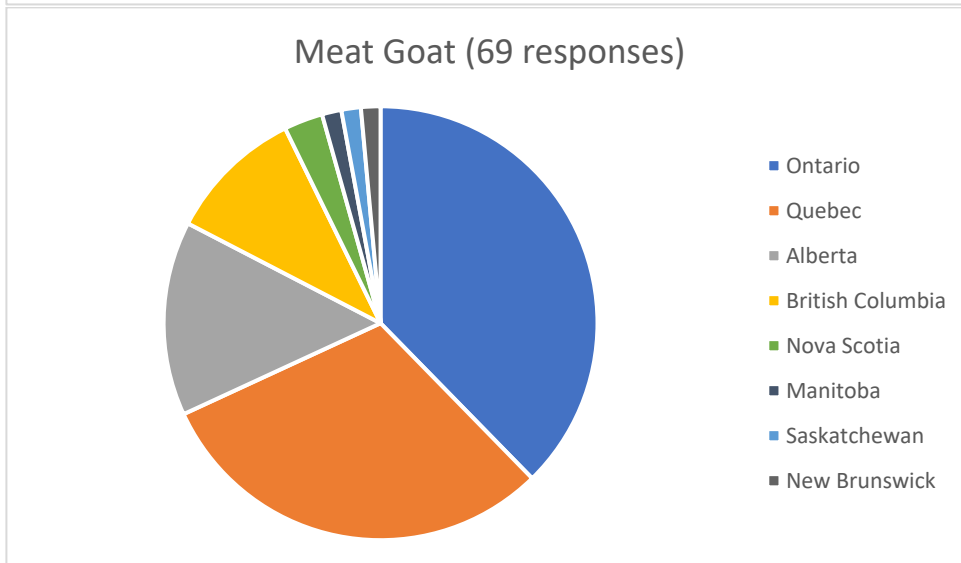
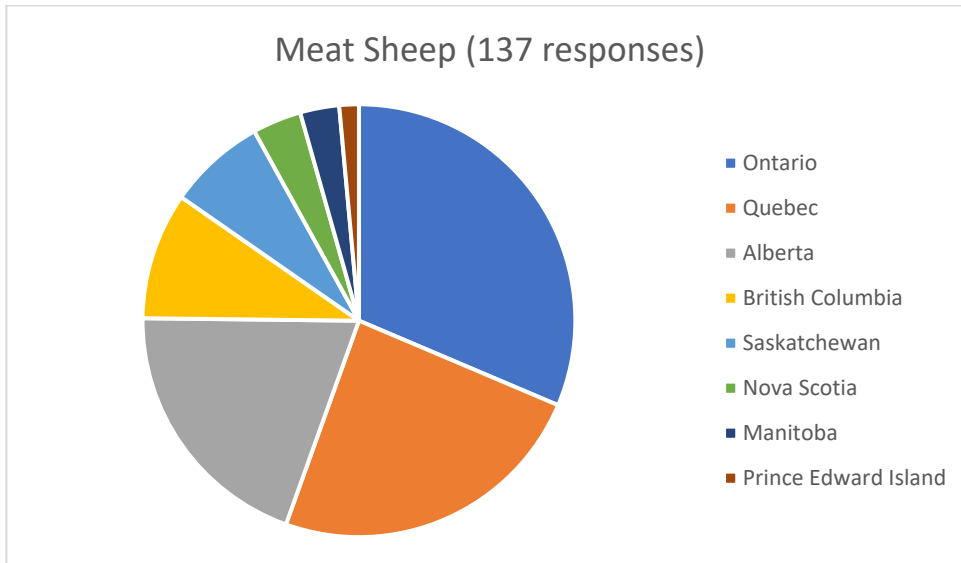
Other Responses:

- Hand, crimp, lustre, density, colour
- No knowledge
- Lustre, colour, strength, tog/thel ratio
- Crimp
- Crimp quality
- Quality
- Crimp and microns

Are you willing to contribute to data collection of wool/fibre? (41 responses)



Which province or territory are you from?



Please indicate the approximate % of your business income from each source below:

Meat Sheep (142 Responses)

Percentage of business income	Sales of breeding stock	Meat	Milk	Fibre	Other
>75%	8.5	28.2	0.7	0.0	1.4
50-75%	15.5	20.4	1.4	1.4	0.7
25-50%	28.2	27.5	1.4	2.8	4.2
<25%	33.8	17.6	12.7	30.3	9.9
0%	14.1	6.3	83.8	65.5	83.8

Other responses:

- Hay
- We sell feeder lambs and cut and wrapped meat
- Christmas Trees
- Cheese and other processed dairy products
- Custom grazing
- Composted Manure
- Pet Home or sale barn
- Rodeo (tie goats)
- Compost
- Vente directement à l'encan
- Ferme de grande culture, troupeau ovin en démarrage
- Leçon herding, pension, vente de produits d'autres sources animal
- Expositions agricoles

Meat Goat (69 responses)

Percentage of business income	Sales of breeding stock	Meat	Milk	Fibre	Other
>75%	10.1	17.4	4.3	0.0	1.4
50-75%	17.4	26.1	5.8	0.0	2.9
25-50%	26.1	17.4	2.9	0.0	4.3
<25%	33.3	26.1	15.9	18.8	20.3
0%	13.0	13.0	71.0	81.2	71.0

Other responses:

- Pet
- Pet Home or sale barn
- Manure sales
- Showing
- Manure
- Animals sold live for meat
- Targeted grazing
- Vente directement à l'encan
- Bœuf
- Bois

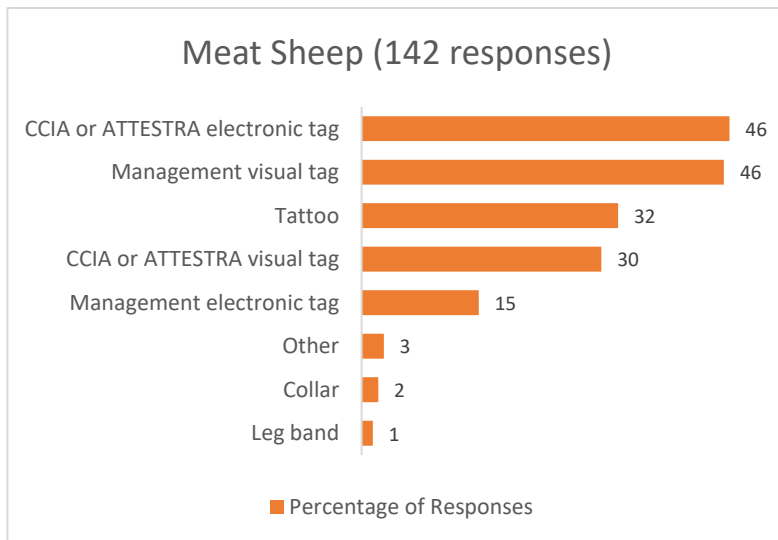
Dairy Goat (84 responses)

Percentage of business income	Sales of breeding stock	Meat	Milk	Fibre	Other
>75%	21.4	6.0	10.7	0.0	3.6
50-75%	13.1	8.3	7.1	0.0	0.0
25-50%	15.5	9.5	4.8	0.0	6.0
<25%	39.3	33.3	16.7	16.7	16.7
0%	10.7	42.9	60.7	83.3	73.8

Other responses:

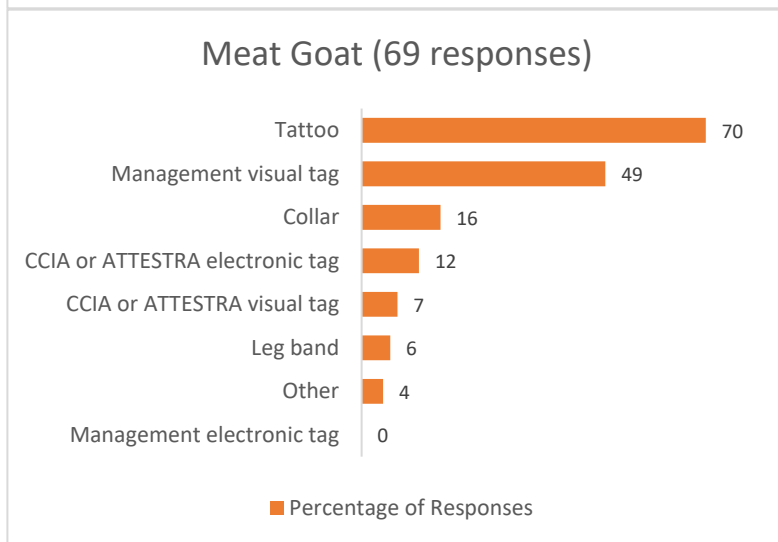
- Pet
- Manure sales
- Showing
- Goat milk soap
- A petting zoo
- This is a hobby not a business
- No real income from goats yet. Will be dairy though.
- Soap and bath goats milk products
- Manure
- Soap made from goats milk
- Soapmaking fibre art
- Rodeo (tie goats)
- Fromage

How do you identify the animals in your herd?



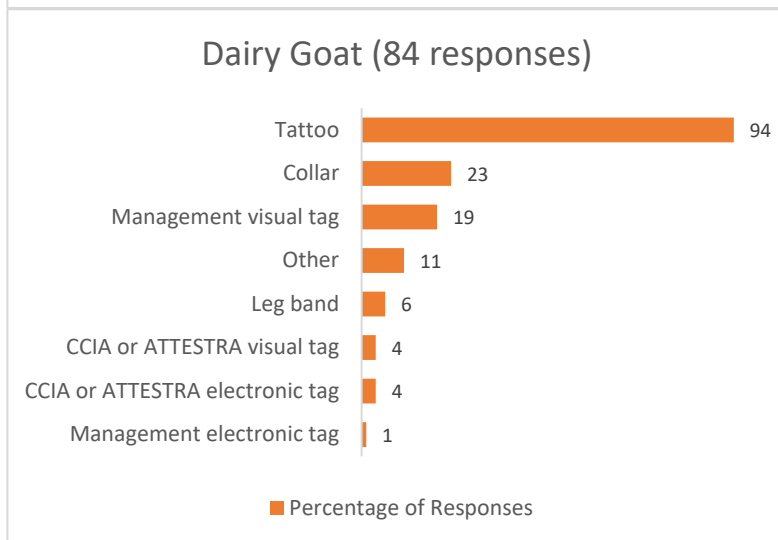
Other responses:

- CSIP RFID tag
- RFID yellow tags from the wool coop for sheep
- Avant la pose des identifiants, ils sont numérotés avec de la peinture sur leur dos qui reste quelques semaines.
- Red paint number on back at lambing and ewe has same number on her back



Other responses:

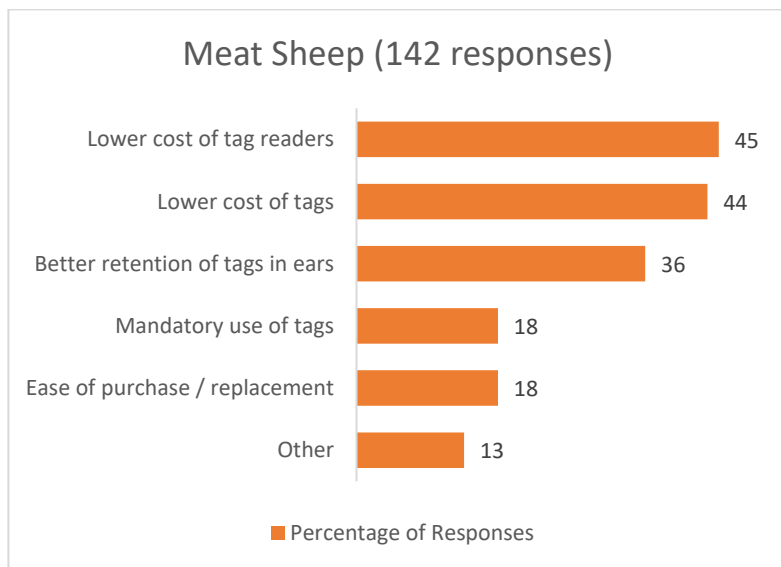
- Small herd. Individuals.
- Know them individual by looking at them



Other responses:

- Small herd. Individuals.
- Memory
- Know them individual by looking at them
- Markings
- Appearance/collar
- We can tell all our dairy goats apart based on their appearance. Tags are for the meat goats
- Bande de jambe avec identification électronique
- Puce électronique sous-cutanée

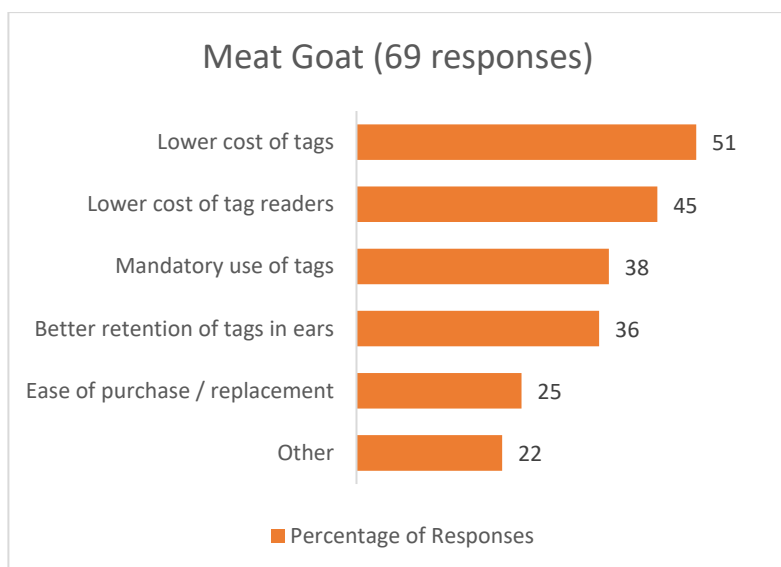
What would encourage you to identify animals using electronic tags?



Other responses:

- Already use them.
- Not enough lambs to justify buying reader
- Too small an operation to purchase these tags
- 30 ewes do not justify the expenditure

- Current use Shearwell RFID applied with first 14 days
- Use names
- I need visual in order to walk through and see it without needing a scanner in the pasture.
- Not worthwhile at any cost
- Larger flock, better reader
- Nothing for goats, do not want
- J'utilise déjà les tags électroniques
- Je les identifie déjà avec ATQ
- Take advantage of management potential for flock/animal improvement and health
- Nous tatouons nos chèvres et nous sommes contre cette procédure
- Getting the data back of where sheep have gone, etc
- Numbers wear off in a short time and cannot be read
- Tags that don't split
- Better software
- Ability to collect and store animal specific data that can be immutably tied to the tag

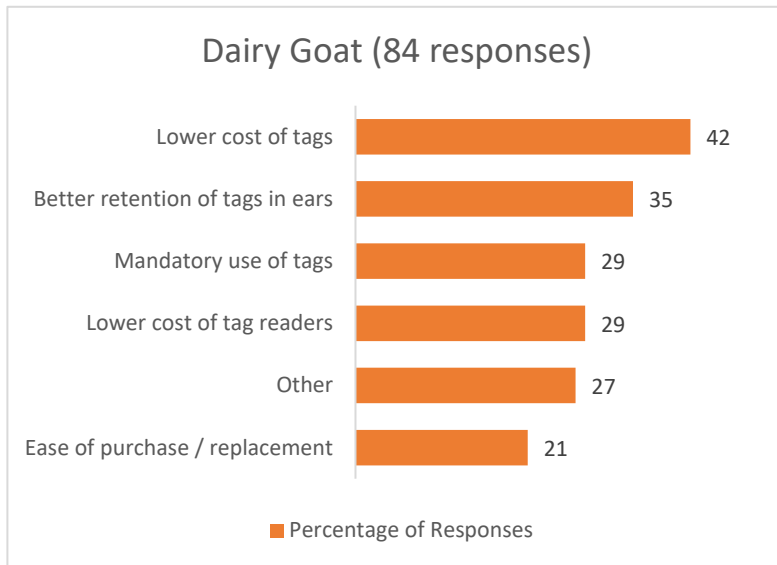


Other responses:

- Quality tail tags
- I would use them if the auction house would use them
- Prefer chip reader and chips, please

- Not interested
- Jamais
- Plus facile à transmettre les infos sur plusieurs plateformes
- Goats are so different from Sheep, Cattle and Swine, leg band cause rashes and cuts if things get stuck in them. Ear tags are routinely ripped out. Bolus RFID might be an option. Better ear tags most are WAY too big. They need to very small. Need to have a welfare assessment of all current approved tags
- I don't find real value in individually identifying kids
- Nous tatouons nos chèvres et nous sommes contre cette procédure
- Better software
- Alternative such as leg band
- Prefer a chip to ear tags, thank you

What would encourage you to identify animals using electronic tags?

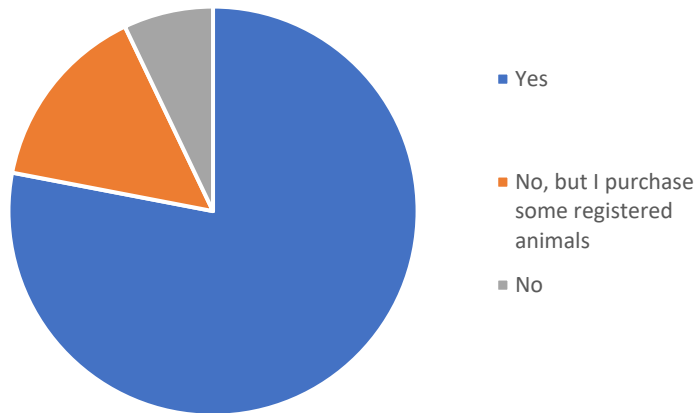


Other responses:

- Quality tail tags
 - Prefer chip reader and chips, please
 - Cost and ease of putting them in.
 - I'm opposed to ear tags. Goats are prone to ripping them out, as well as causing a cosmetic droop in the ear. Tattooing has been a more permanent form of ID for us.
 - I would absolutely never put a tag in one of my goats ears. Tattoos are fine, but tags will get ripped out, chewed off, and ruin their ears. Also they just don't look good at all.
 - Leg bands that fit miniature breeds. Ear tags tear easily in goat ears
- Better options for La Manchans, more visually appealing tags for show animals
 - Not at all interested. If tags become mandatory, I will go unregistered.
 - A tag that worked on a La Mancha.
 - Nothing for goats, do not want
 - Not interested
 - Not interested
 - My goats have no ears and I have no need for them all animals are sold direct to consumers, they are just a pain
 - I am not sure I would need more information
 - Absolutely nothing.
 - Goats are so different from Sheep, Cattle and Swine, leg band cause rashes and cuts if things get stuck in them. Ear tags are routinely ripped out. Bolus RFID might be an option. Better ear tags most are WAY too big. They need to very small. Need to have a welfare assessment of all current approved tags
 - Tail Tags for La Mancha
 - Less cruelty to the animal
 - Use ear and leg bands and have even lost leg bands, Tattoos are only permanent
 - Utilisé depuis 1 an
 - Better software
 - Alternative such as leg band
 - Prefer a chip to ear tags, thank you

Do you register animals?

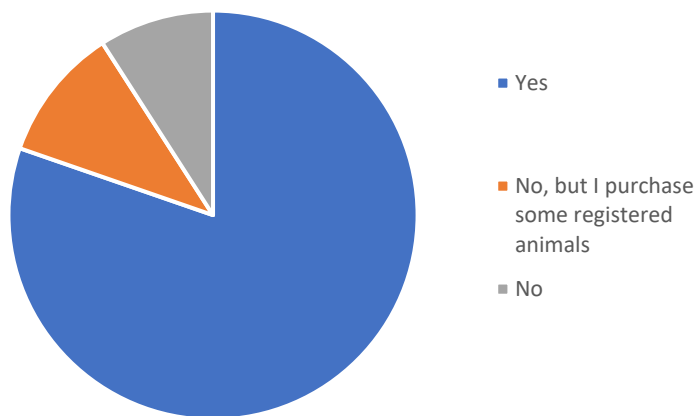
Meat Sheep (142 responses)



Other responses:

- Rarely as too expensive

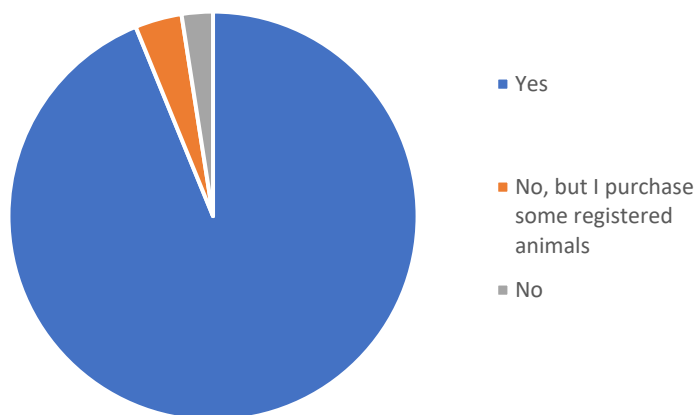
Meat Goats (69 responses)



Other responses:

- Rarely as too expensive
- Too costly now so only will register after freshening and proving themselves
- Used to, just stopped last year

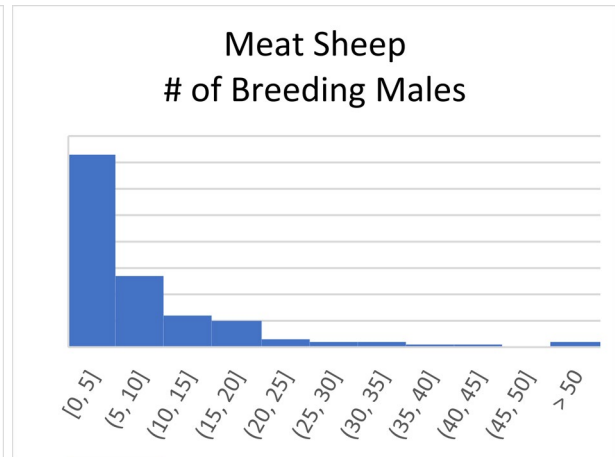
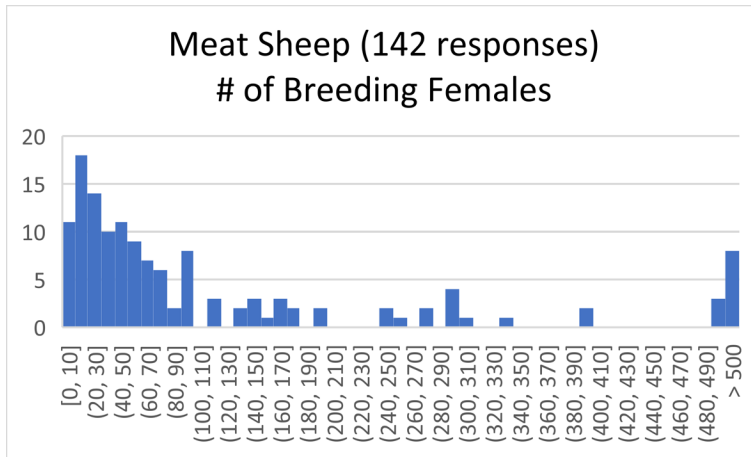
Dairy Goats (84 responses)



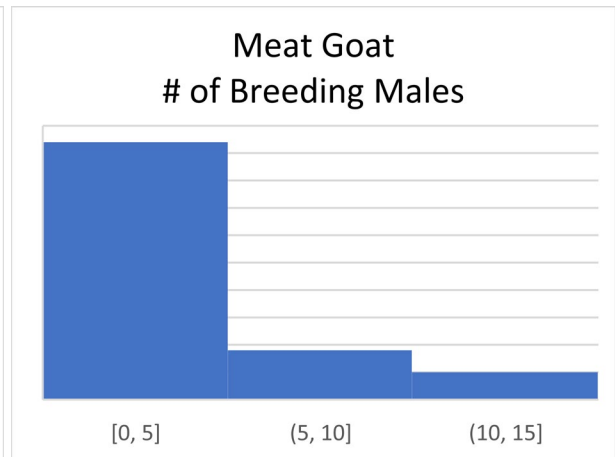
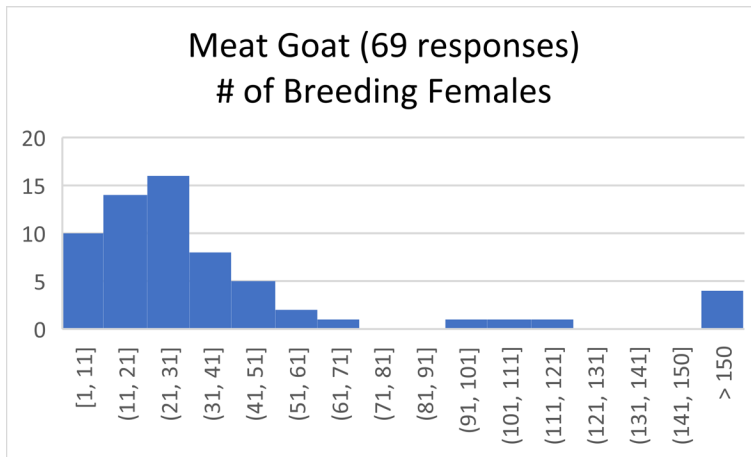
Other responses:

- Too costly now so only will register after freshening and proving themselves
- Used to, just stopped last year
- I will be once breeding has begun but have not gone through this procedure yet

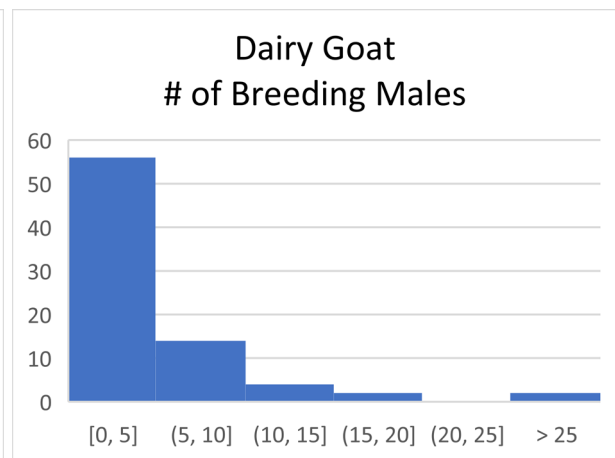
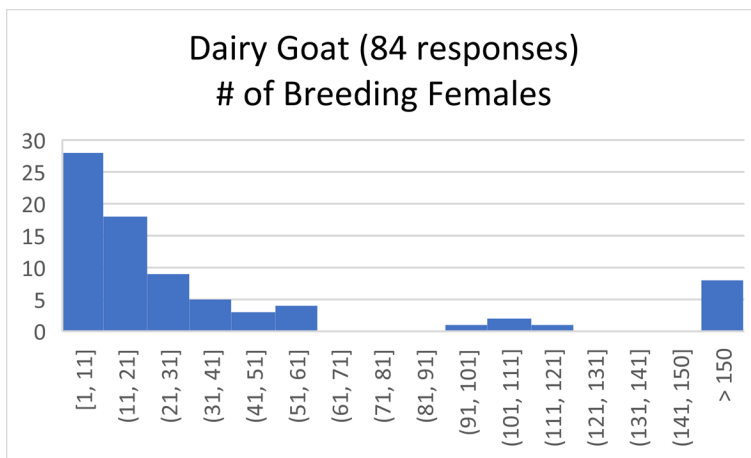
Distribution of Number of Breeding Females and Breeding Males



- Other responses:
- Je ne comprends pas la questions, Toutes mes animaux sont enregistrés ?
 - 95 % registered
 - 50-60 registered females

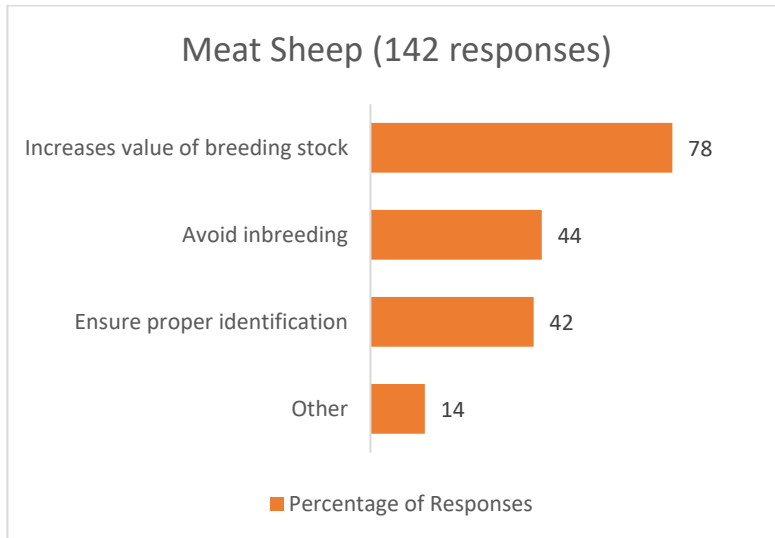


- Other responses:
- Plus 1 female next year
 - All registered 80% female, 5 % male



- Other responses:
- Plus 1 female next year
 - 2 goats, 1 unregistered ram
 - All registered 80% female, 5 % male
 - 350 in herd?

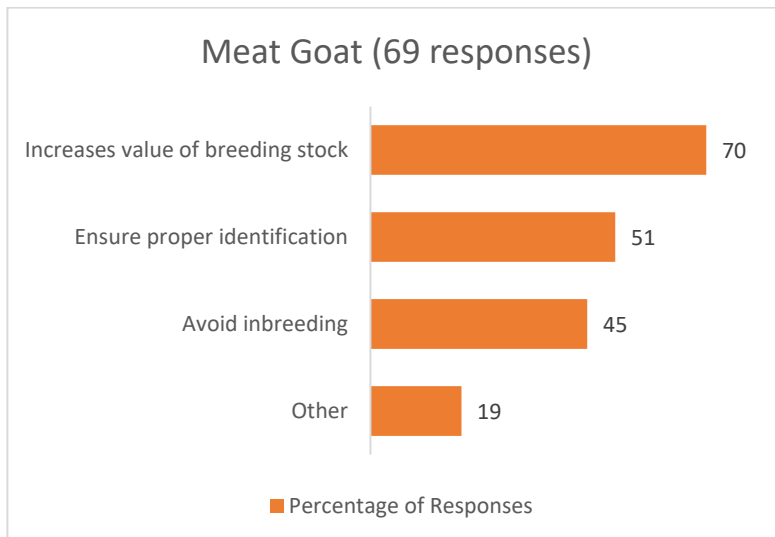
Why do you register your animals?



Other responses:

- We don't register
- For sales purposes and show
- Vente et plus value

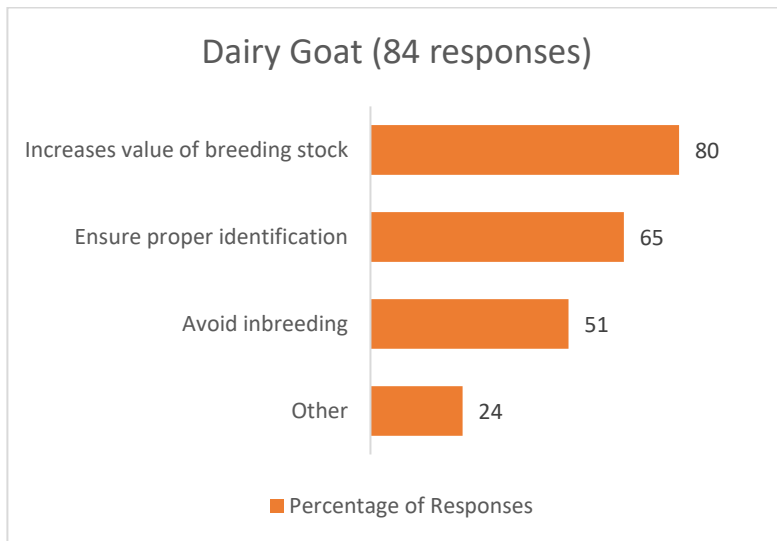
- Pas enregistré
- Tous achetés enregistrés
- Only want purebred rams
- Showing verified pedigree, searchable database (CLRC)
- Maintenir l'intégrité de la race
- Obligation pour obtenir ASRA
- Costs same to raise a good animal as a poor one
- To ensure the breed standards
- Maintain genealogical/pedigree record
- Pure bred stock
- Suivi des croisements et performances
- Increased Equity on Balance Sheet
- Preserve Purebred Genetics to help provide F1 crosses to commercial industry.
- Permet une bonne gestion d'inventaire, retracer les bébés-mères etc.
- Pouvoir faire les expositions agricoles.



Other responses:

- Registered when purchased I don't
- It's a hobby to maintain lines for future generations
- Records of genetic improvement
- For sales purposes and show
- Too keep the line purebred in case buyer may want papers.
- Mandatory for show stock
- Keeps record of genetics/pedigree for input into improved breeding & stock
- So I can show them at goat shows
- Good way to see where your stock ends up
- Show
- Permet une bonne gestion d'inventaire, retracer les bébés-mères etc.

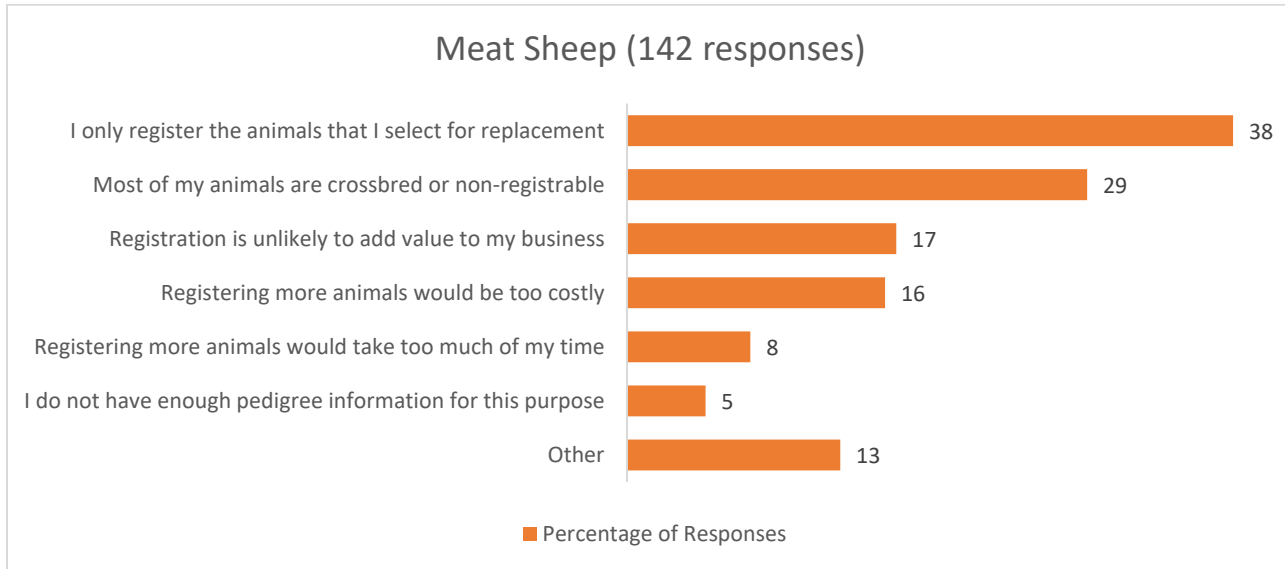
Why do you register your animals?



Other responses:

- Registered when purchased
- It's a hobby to maintain lines for future generations
- To show, breed up and keep track of genetics
- If buyer wants a registered kid
- Records of genetic improvement
- For sales purposes and show
- Lineage and performance tracking
- To keep the line purebred in case buyer may want papers.
- Mandatory for show stock
- To ensure the breed standards
- Monitor increase of rare Oberhasli (who, where, how many)
- Keeps record of genetics/pedigree for input into improved breeding & stock
- Traceability
- So I can show them at goat shows
- Show
- Promote integrity of the breed
- CGS Program participation
- To show in sanctioned shows
- Les animaux sont tous enregistrés après la saillie
- Vendre des sujets reproducteurs

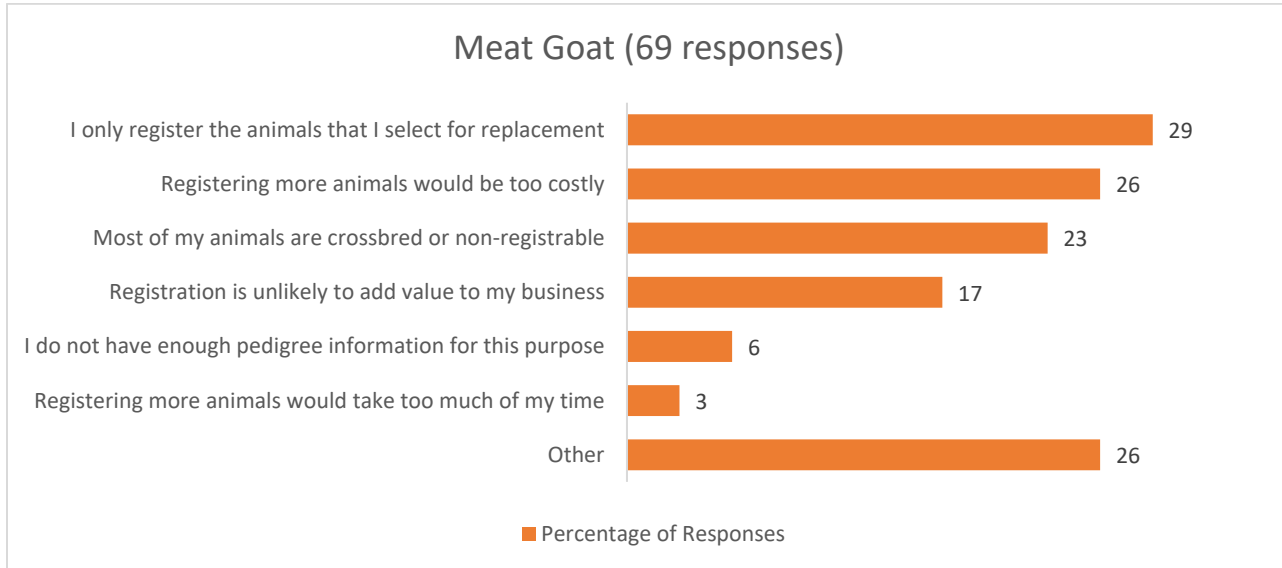
Do you have any specific reasons for not registering some of your animals that could otherwise be registered?



Other responses:

- Sold for meat
- Poor quality - sell as meat animals
- Only sold for meat
- Not registered yet but will be this year
- Animals selected for slaughter are not registered
- My breed does not allow breeding up to pure status and as I have a great genetic flock I choose to continue with what I have.
- Tous nos animaux sont enregistrés
- Les animaux non enregistrés sont croisés
- Some of flock are crossbred
- Many buyers are not interested in registered
- Register quality lambs what are for sale
- Quality. Not everything born purebred should be registered.
- Register animals that are sold to customers breeding them
- Some buyers don't want registered
- If buyers don't want them registered it's a waste of money.
- Not enough animals to make the endeavor cost effective
- Currently working to completing whole flock and catching up to paperwork
- Lack of time and help for tattooing

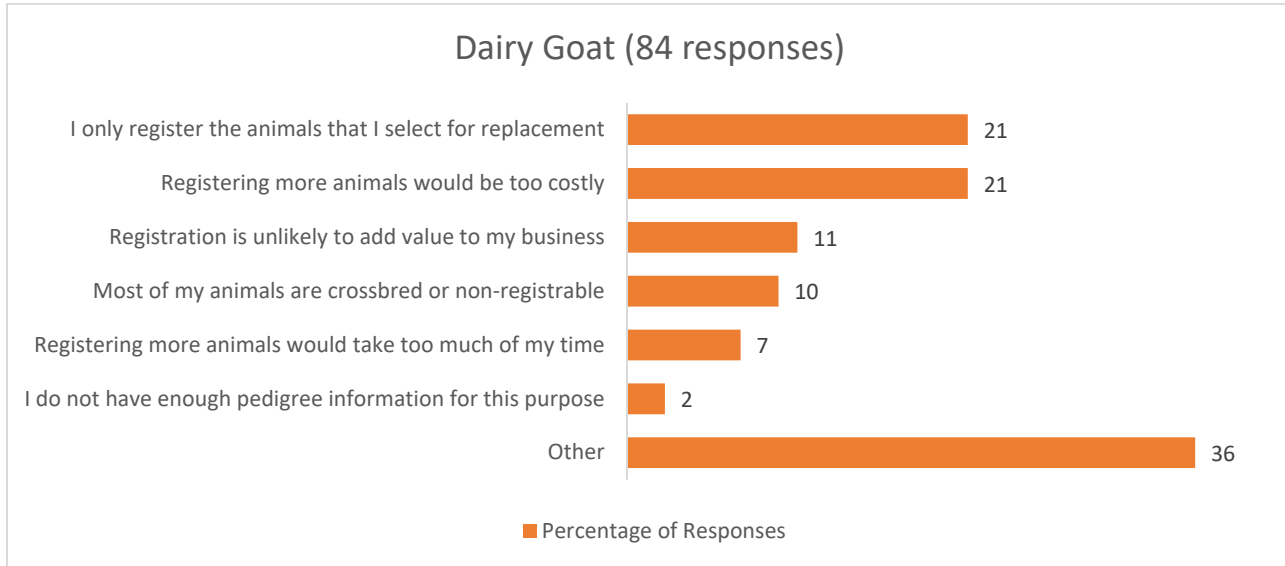
Do you have any specific reasons for not registering some of your animals that could otherwise be registered?



Other responses:

- I do not have enough pedigree information for this purpose
- If not registered they go for meat, why would I register them!
- Animals not meeting breed standard or that I feel aren't good enough
- Have info but likely too late to register the orphan
- Register all but the ones that go for meat
- Cross bred
- I don't register wethers
- All animals in my herd will be registered unless culled for meat
- I do not have enough pedigree information for this purpose
- Will be registering
- Tous nos animaux sont enregistrés
- I do not have enough pedigree information for this purpose
- Vendu non enregistré cause de défaut de conformation
- Viande
- We have Boer goats. Our original purchases were all registered Canadian purebred's but buyers of breeding stock heavily discriminate against any animal that is not a full blood. Canadian purebred's with registration papers are not worth any more than grade goats are.
- If I don't feel they will improve the breed or have desirable traits (dairy goats only) then they are sold as unregistered or wethered. All our meat goats are commercial and unregistered
- Low demand for registered animals
- Not everything that can be papered should be.
- Aucun intérêt car pas de génomique avec les enregistrements

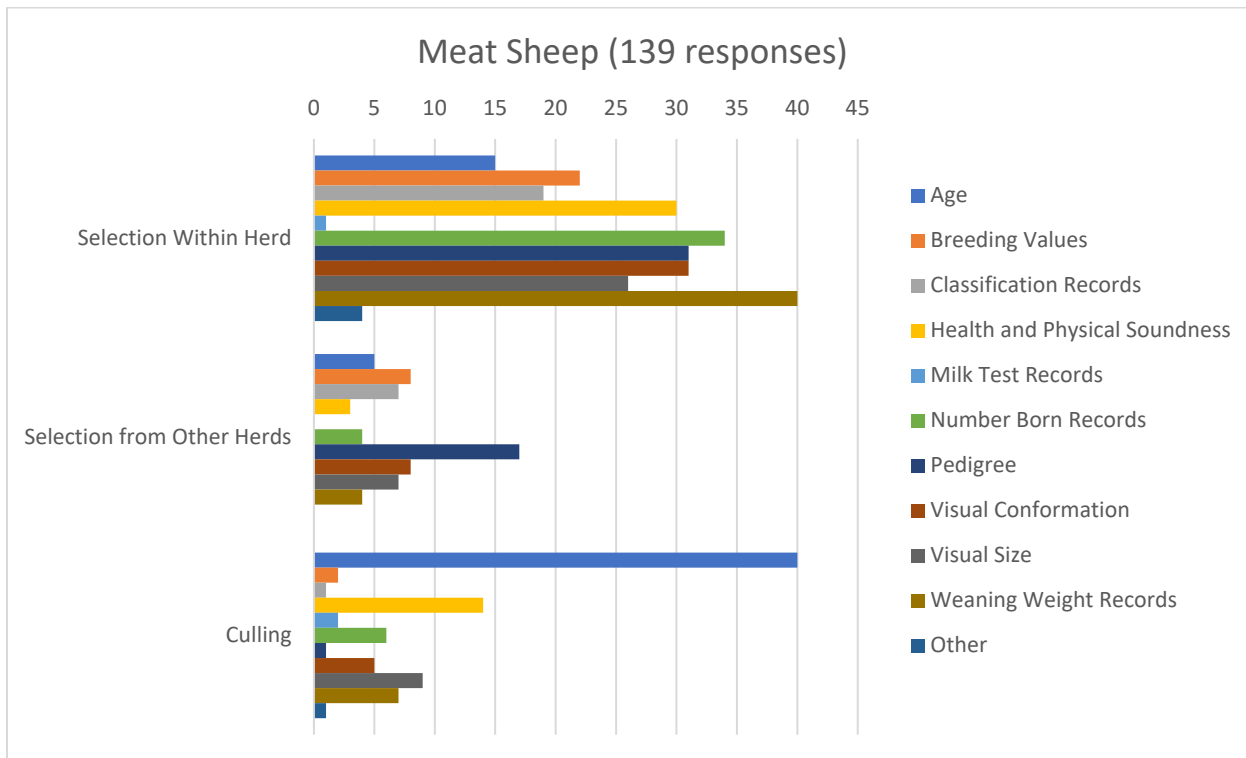
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Other responses:

- If not registered they go for meat, why would I register them!
- Have info but likely too late to register the orphan
- Register all but the ones that go for meat
- N/a
- Can't breed him so he is the end of the bloodline
- I don't register castrated males
- Cross bred
- I don't register wethers
- Na
- Only a single older doe that is cross bred is not registered
- I register all Oberhasli bred here
- Many customers I am selling "kids" to do not want or care about the registration paperwork
- All of my animals are registered
- Owner of the buck I used this didn't test the buck so some kids tested for genetic G6S. I will not sell or breed these kids therefore not registering.
- Only register proper confirmation animals
- Haven't reg. young goats for 2 years. Lack of funds.
- Lower under 6 months fee and everything would be registered instead of waiting until freshening
- Many buyers prefer non-registered. Buyer dependent
- They aren't out of proven lines and don't deserve to be registered
- All animals in my herd will be registered unless culled for meat
- We only register after they proved themselves as good milkers (2nd lactation)
- Pas applicable pour moi
- Perte du collier mis à la naissance.
- I don't register wethers
- If I don't feel they will improve the breed or have desirable traits (dairy goats only) then they are sold as unregistered or wethered. All our meat goats are commercial and unregistered
- Only the best offspring in the herd get registered
- If buyers don't want them registered it's a waste of money.
- Low demand for registered animals
- Some were born late so didn't get in batch
- Lack of time and help for tattooing

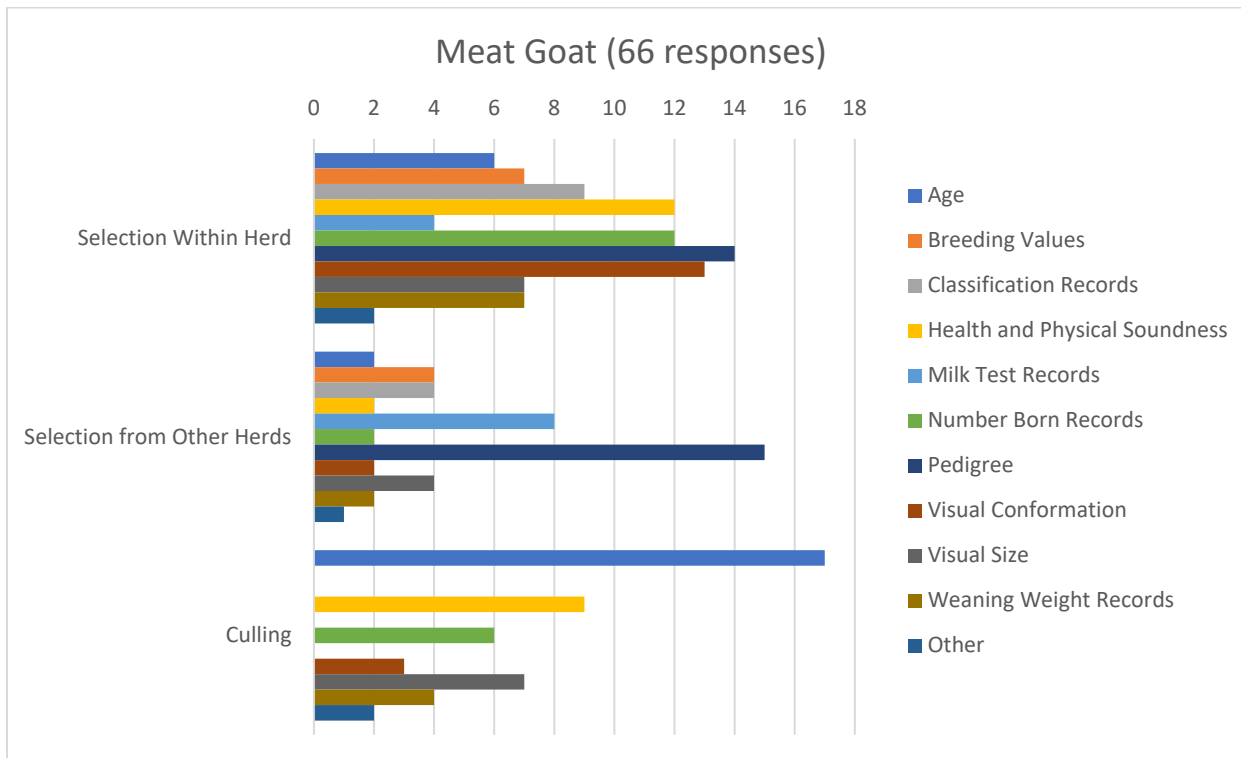
What information do you use to make selection and culling decisions?



Other responses:

- Carcas plus
- GenOvis numbers
- Dam's production history, Ram/ram lamb temperament
- Utilize GenOvis whenever possible
- Look at carcass +, then loin eye, then fat depth
- Temperament, condition scores
- Their overall performance and reliability within my flock and management over the years
- Scrapie Genotype, MV Health Status
- Performance data from GenOvis and on farm records
- I have good farm gate sales most lambs or older that don't meet criteria go into.
- Wool quality
- Qualité génétique en premier ,
- Positif à la Maedi Visna

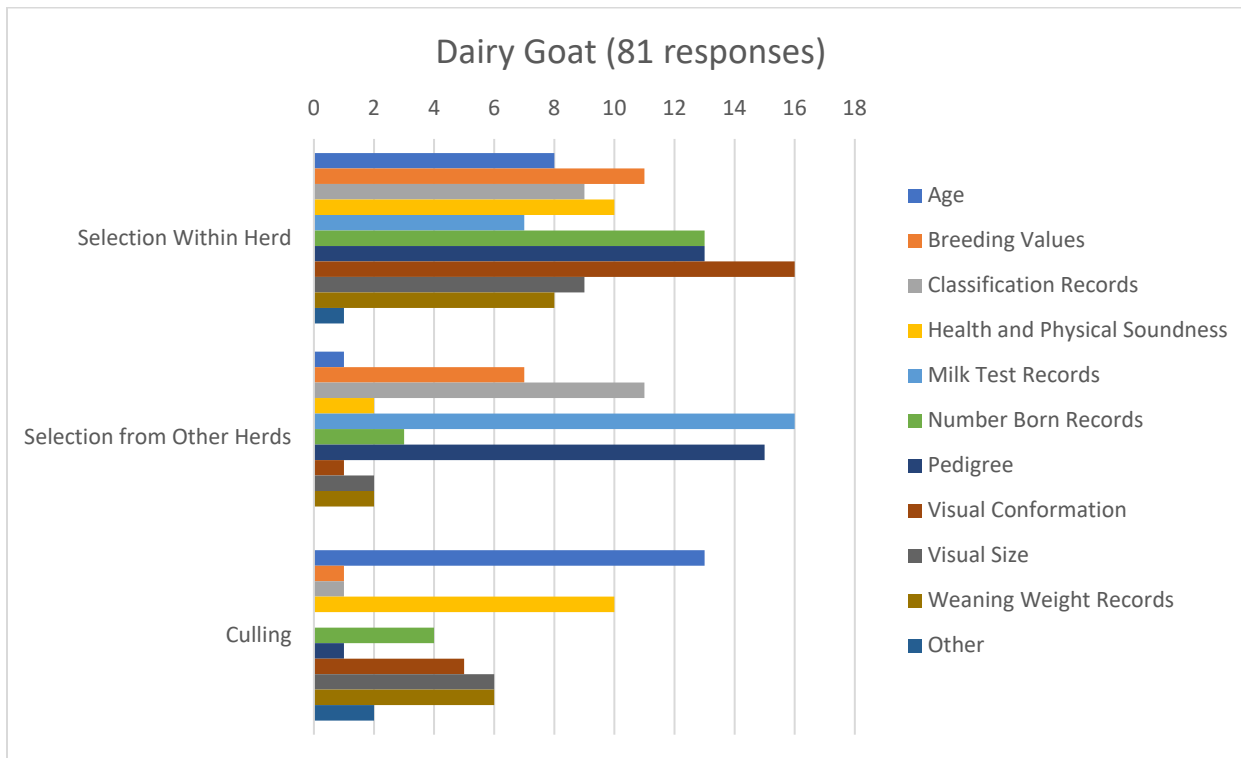
What information do you use to make selection and culling decisions?



Other responses:

- Diet, animals that require more input than others I do not purchase or retain and will cull them
- Temperament
- Actual thriftiness and ability to winter
- Temperament and parasite resistance.
- Temperament, maternal traits
- Wool quality
- Production laitière inadéquate
- Testé pour maladies, comme l'AEC, paratuberculose et Lymphadénite Caséuse
- Résultat d'exposition, statut sanitaire, fertilité, caractère/sociabilité/non agressivité
- Ne comprends pas le sens de la question

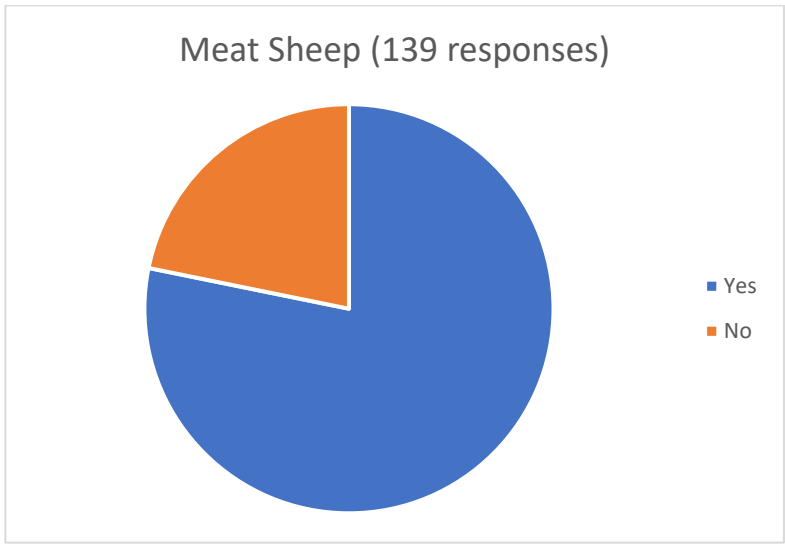
What information do you use to make selection and culling decisions?



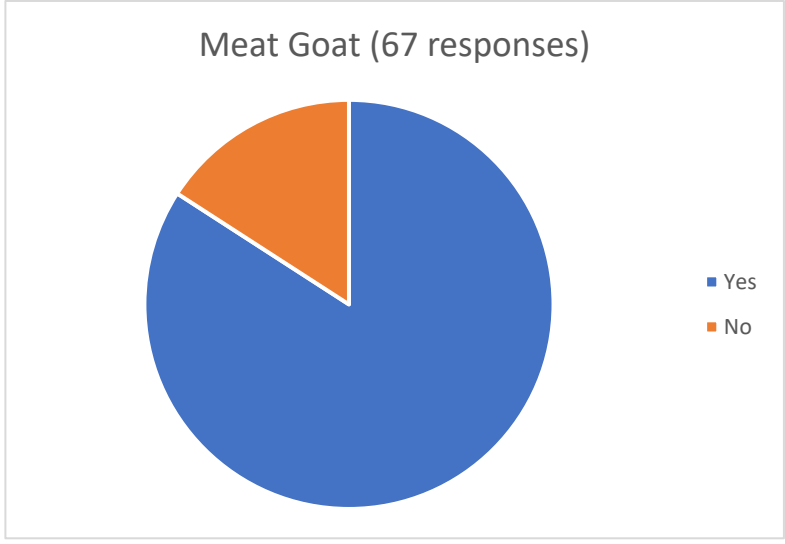
Other responses:

- Hooves (found some dairy herds didn't breed for sound feet, only milk production and it was very difficult to remove from our herd)
- I have very few goats and sheep now. The 3 sheep are all aged and they will live out there life on the farm. Of the 8 goats, 4 are young, 2 are older than 8 yrs. and 2 are 3 year old does.
- Temperament
- Actual thriftiness and ability to winter
- Temperament, maternal traits
- Testé pour maladies, comme l'AEC, paratuberculose et Lymphadénite Caséuse
- Production lait basse

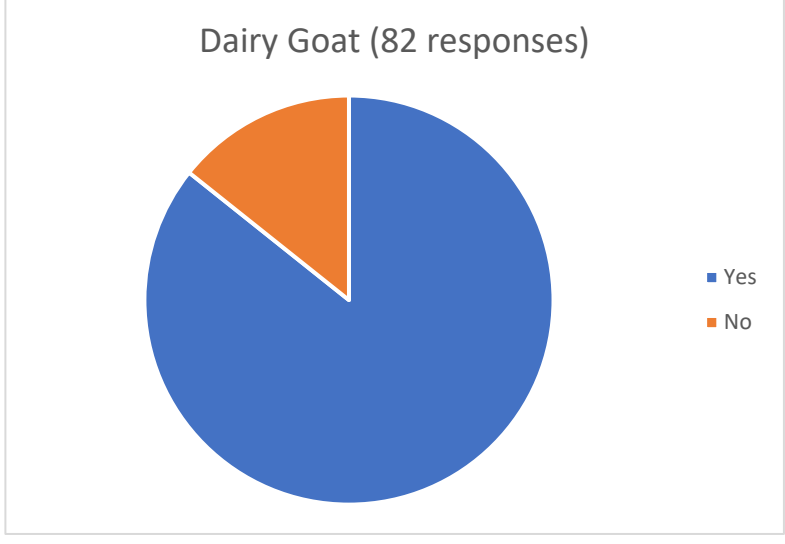
Would you be interested in using a website listing performance tested rams or bucks, and their owners' contacts, that would allow you to select the traits that are important to you?



- Other responses:
- Current GenOvis program is NOT user friendly, when I do research for probable purchase I need records that are easy accessible.
 - Third party record of performance data
 - Want to know if breeder shows sheep , if so not interested
 - Maybe
 - Si le site est en Français oui
 - Je le fais déjà avec GénOvis

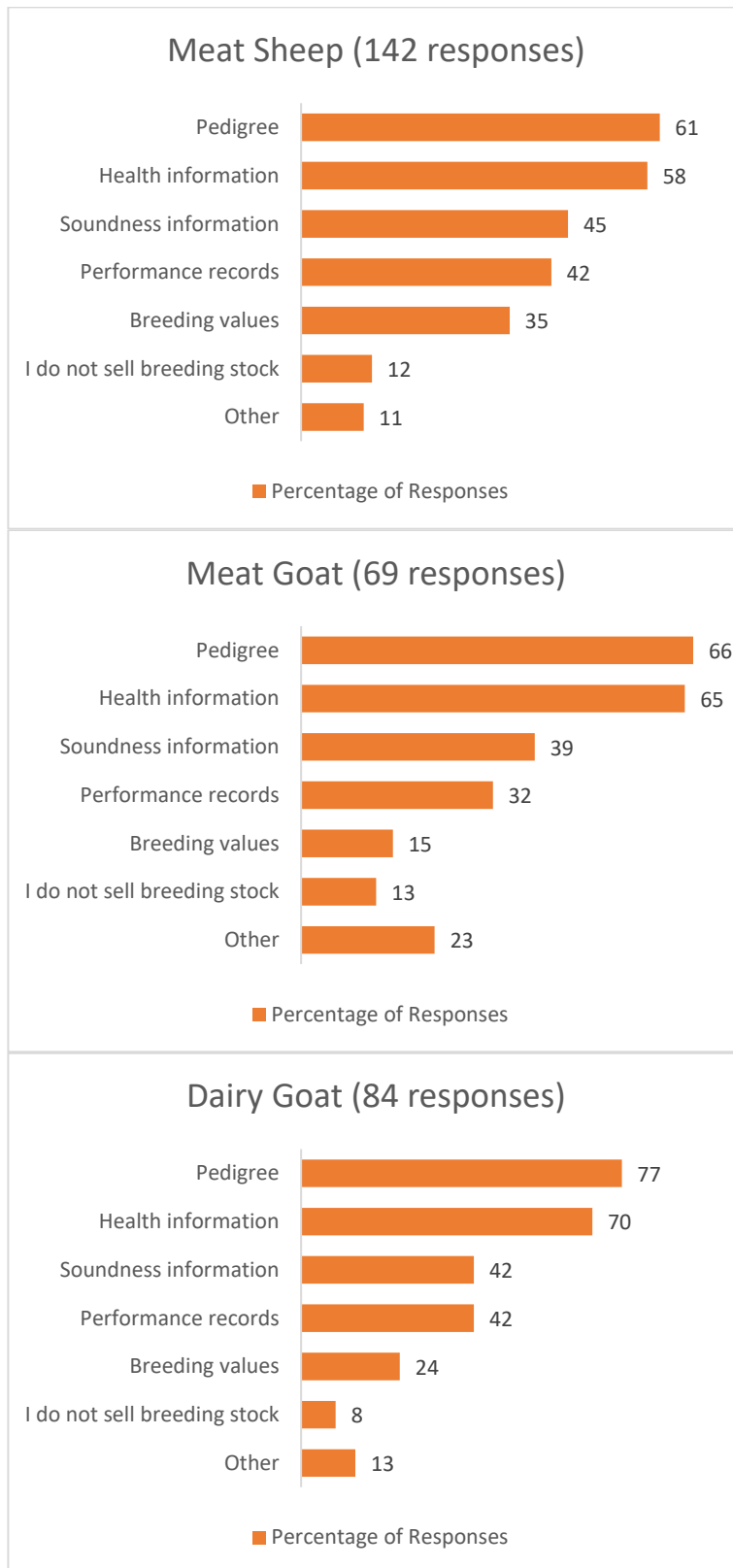


- Other responses:
- Maybe
 - Not until more Canadian animals are able to participate so records are accurate
 - Je m'attends à y retrouver les résultats de classification. Les forces et les faiblesses doivent y figurer.
 - Apart from my own management failures the biggest problem that I have faced raising goats is a complete absence of maternal instinct in many of the does. I have no idea how you can evaluate animals for this characteristic but I would gladly trade poor performance for a group of does who raised all their offspring as opposed to dealing with large numbers of orphans.



- Other responses:
- Maybe
 - Maybe
 - If more data collected information would be more reliable
 - Not until more Canadian animals are able to participate so records are accurate
 - J'utilise déjà le site génétique caprine

If you sell breeding stock, what do your buyers ask for?



Other responses:

- All of the above in a round about way but haven't been asked for specific hard records.
- Rien malheureusement
- Enregistrements des animaux
- Price first 90% of the time
- Registered purebred
- Wool quality & colour
- Classification sur la conformation
- Je vends des agnelles f1
- Farm management that is similar to the management that they are seeking to implement
- Not all buyers ask for all this information-some are happy to take whatever animals I recommend

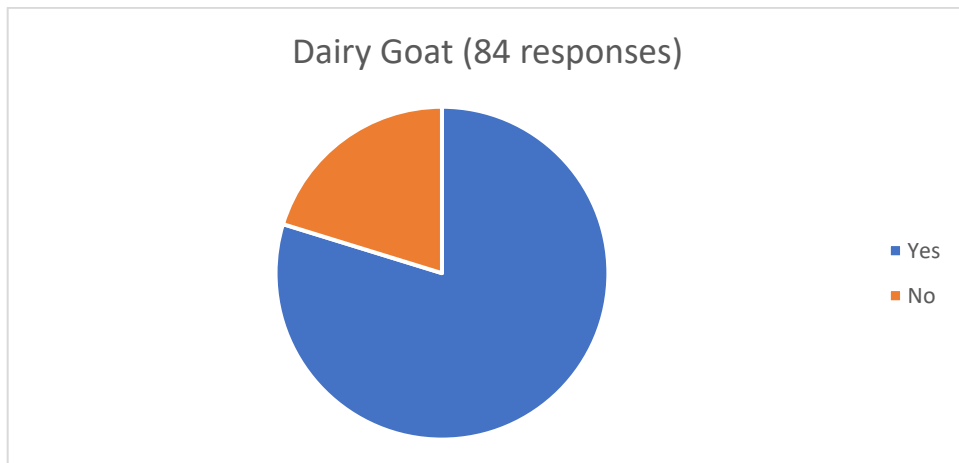
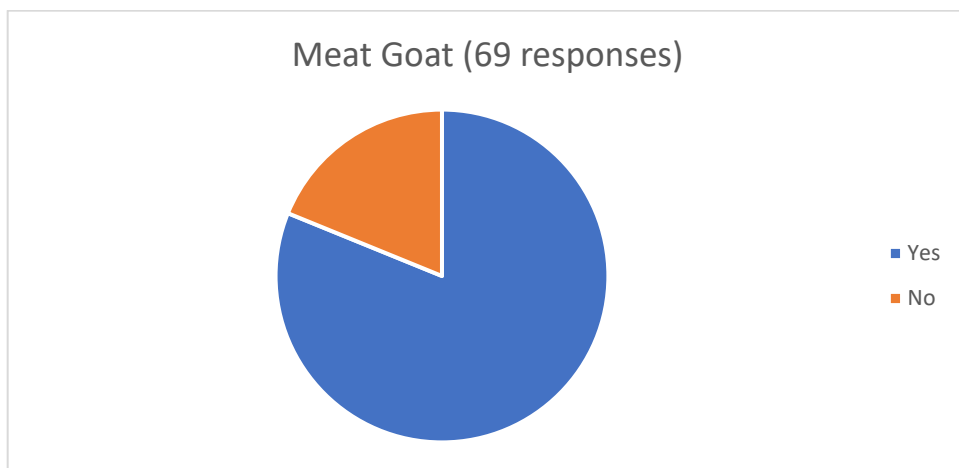
Other responses:

- They focus on the type of goat I raise
- Usually take one honesty and usually ask why I am selling a certain animal
- This will be my first year selling breeding stock.
- Rien malheureusement
- Temperament, polled vs horned, coat and eye colour
- Wool quality & colour
- Parasite counts, diet fed (I only give grass/hay), birth rank
- Dairy temperament
- Photo et vidéo

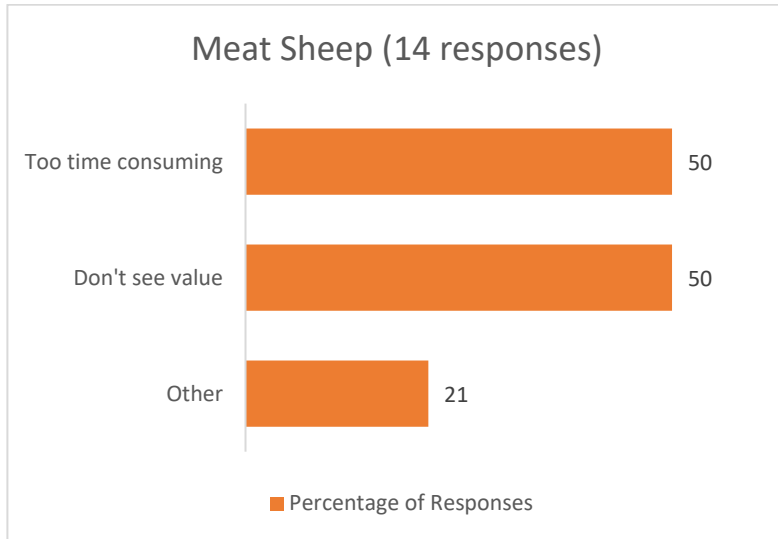
Other responses:

- They focus on the type of goat I raise
- Usually take one honesty and usually ask why I am selling a certain animal
- This will be my first year selling breeding stock.
- Disease testing status
- Price
- Temperament, polled vs horned, coat and eye colour
- Données sur la qualité du lait (CCS)
- Dairy temperament
- Vitesse de traite, CCS, tempérament, persistance laitière

Do you collect data on your animals for herd management purposes?

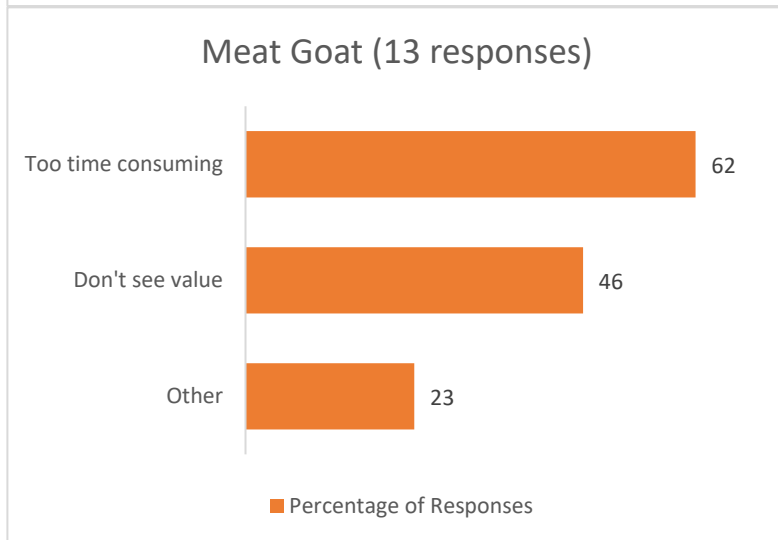


You indicated that you are not collecting data for herd management purposes. Reasons for not collecting data?



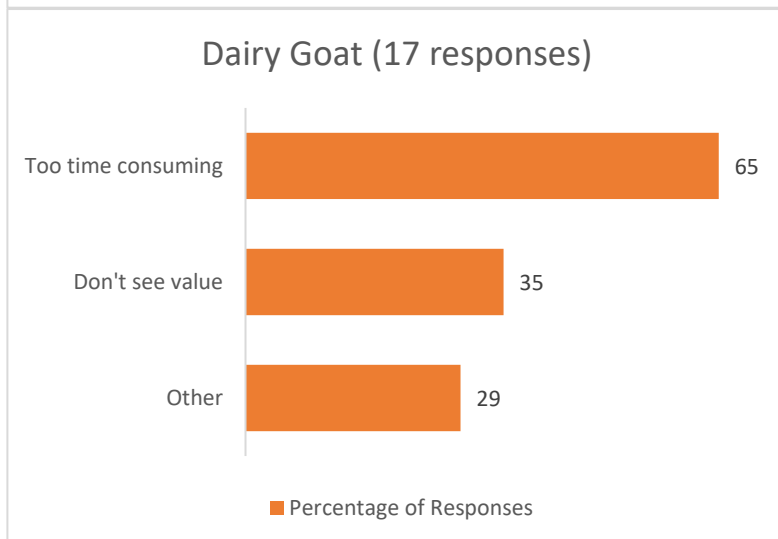
Other responses:

- Only sold for meat
- Just look at pedigree and confirmation
- Cost



Other responses:

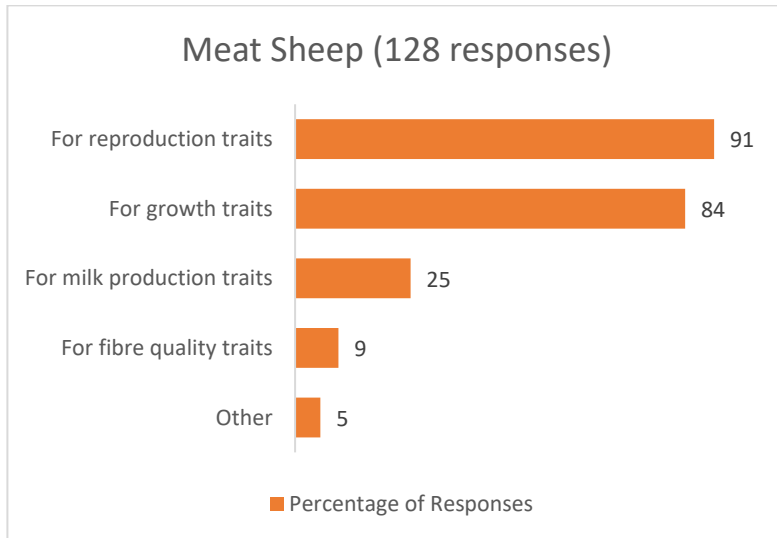
- I know all my animals and don't see the need to collect data
- People don't ask for records. But like to provide proof of classification to justify a goats worth and potential.
- I keep geology records, anything that can't pull its weight was just sold after 20 years of breeding I no longer keep weight and weaning records as I rarely have any to cull for that reason it's mostly conformation that isn't close enough to perfection that influences my decision



Other responses:

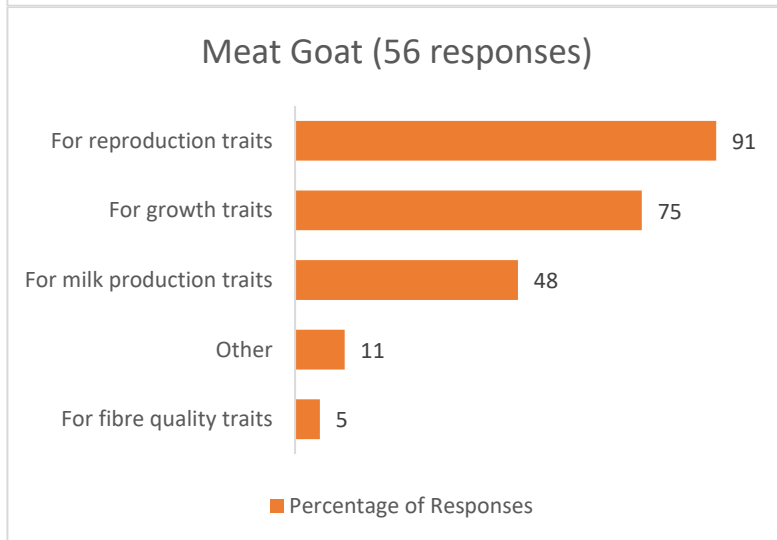
- I know all my animals and don't see the need to collect data
- My herd is very small
- Cost
- People Don't ask for records. But like to provide proof of classification to justify a goats worth and potential.
- I keep geology records, anything that can't pull its weight was just sold after 20 years of breeding I no longer keep weight and weaning records as I rarely have any to cull for that reason it's mostly conformation that isn't close enough to perfection that influences my decision

You indicated that you collect data for herd management practices. What traits do you collect data for?



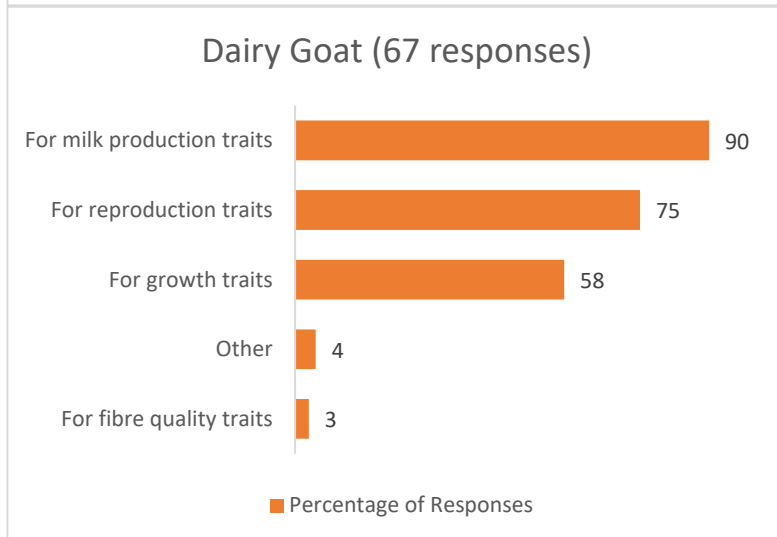
Other responses:

- Prolificity
- Overall soundness of the animals
- Loin Scans, carcass/muscle heritability traits
- Génotypage tremblante et Maedi-Visna
- La mortalité (ou la survie) des agneaux
- Race terminal , gain , carcasse, conformation , prolificité
- Longevity, phenotype, fertility of mother , milk prod of dam, mothering



Other responses:

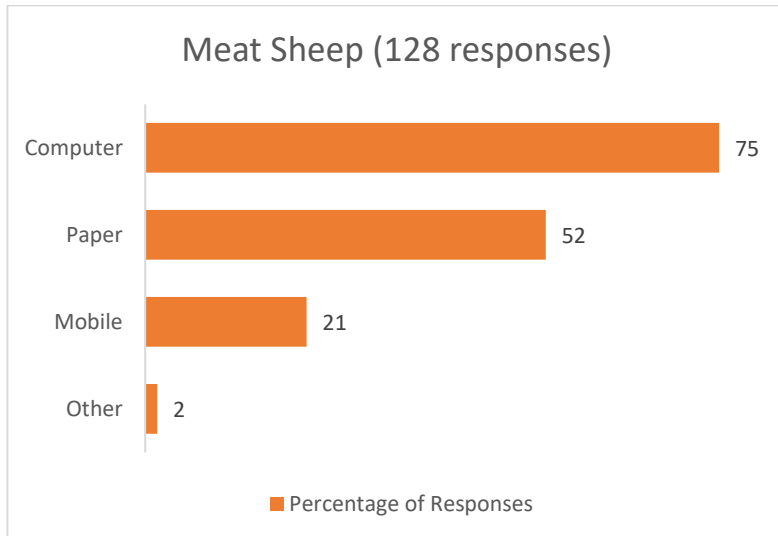
- Number in litter, treatment records, grazing plans and execution
- Parasite resistance/resilience
- Traitement de santé
- Personality, ease of handling
- Soundness traits, health traits, maternal ability, number of kids in birth, ease of kidding, weights, temperament, etc
- Conformation



Other responses:

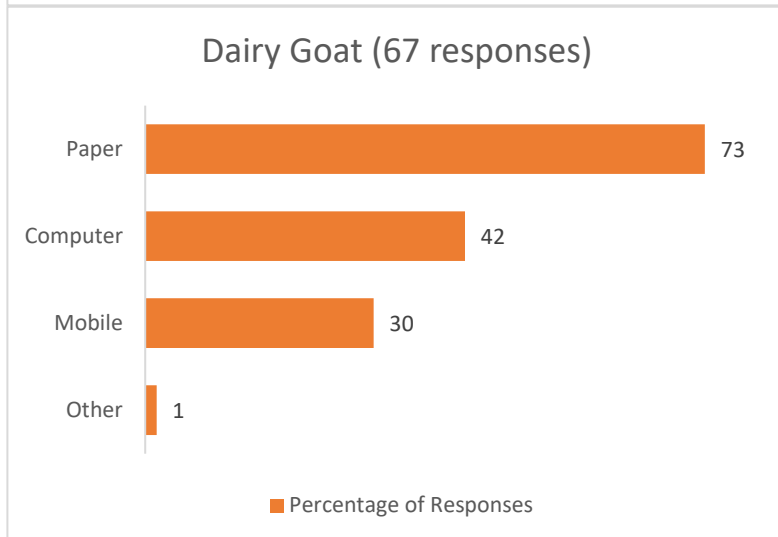
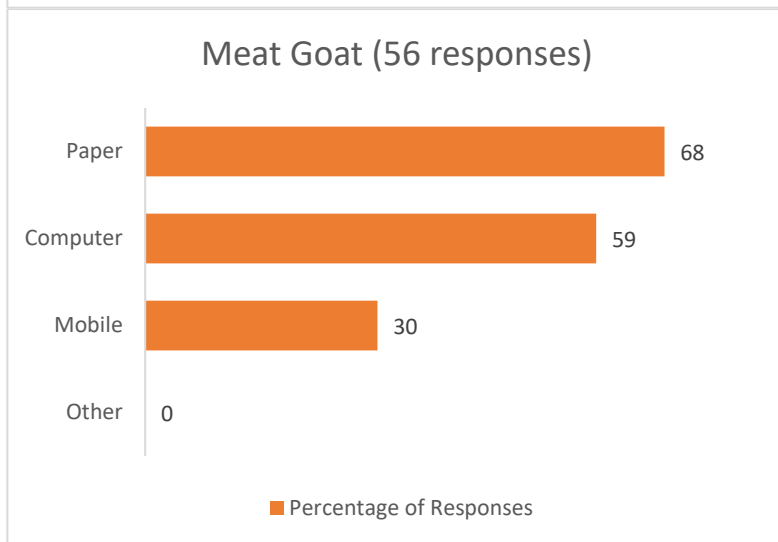
- Colour genetics tracking
- Personality, ease of handling
- Health traits and treatment of ailments

How do you record this data?



Other responses:

- GenOvis
- Logiciel bergère avec le COne

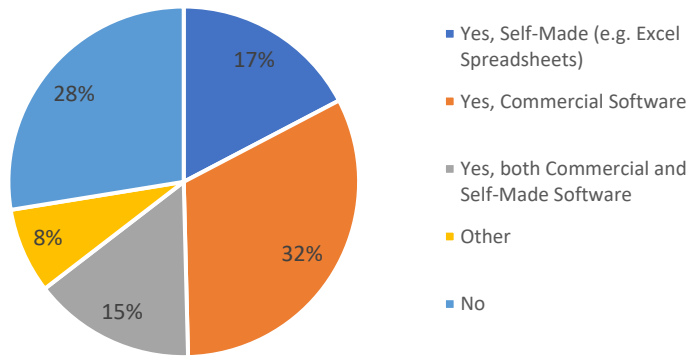


Other responses:

- Canwest

Do you use herd management software?

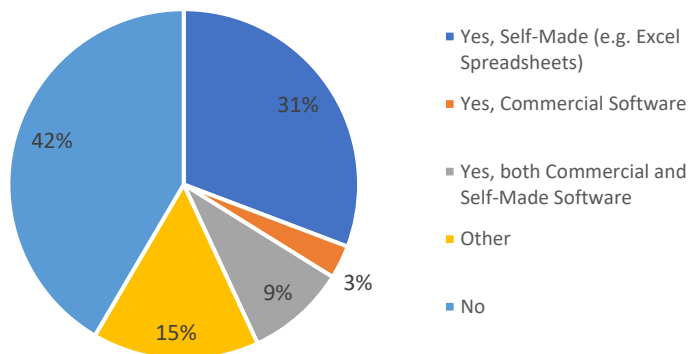
Meat Sheep (127 responses)



Other responses:

- Used commercial software until c.o.i. Was different from registry
- Ewebyte
- I used to but my flock is so small now I don't anymore. Updates are too expensive
- GenOvis
- csv private and printable with info my customer want + price
- Tag reader to read RFID tags for shipping weights
- Génovis Atq Bergère
- Logiciel Bergère
- Génovis
- GenOvis

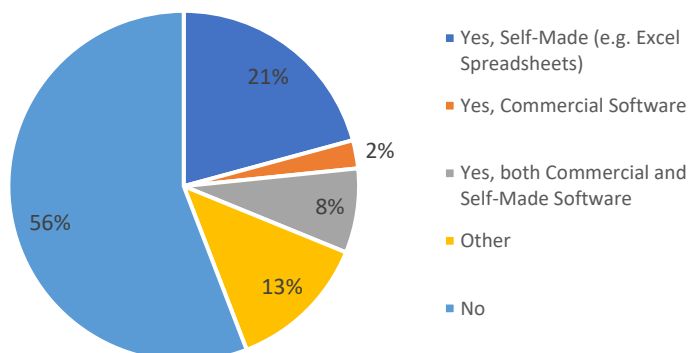
Meat Goat (65 responses)



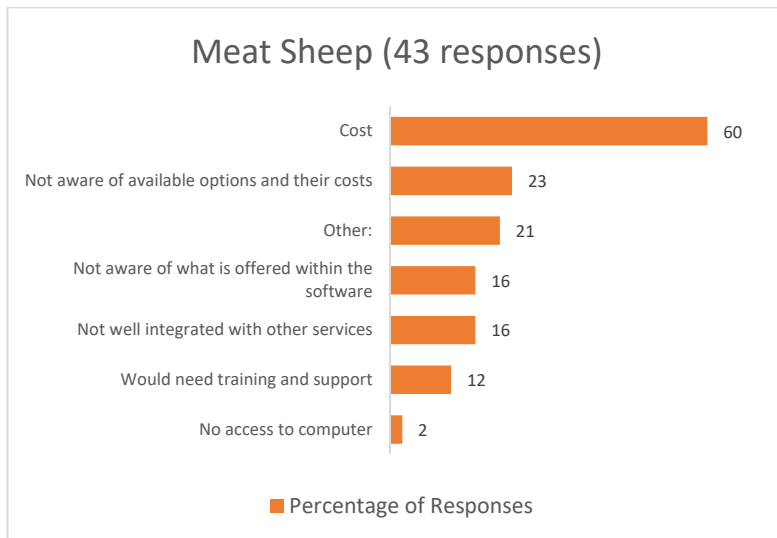
Other responses:

- Génovis Atq Bergère

Dairy Goat (77 responses)

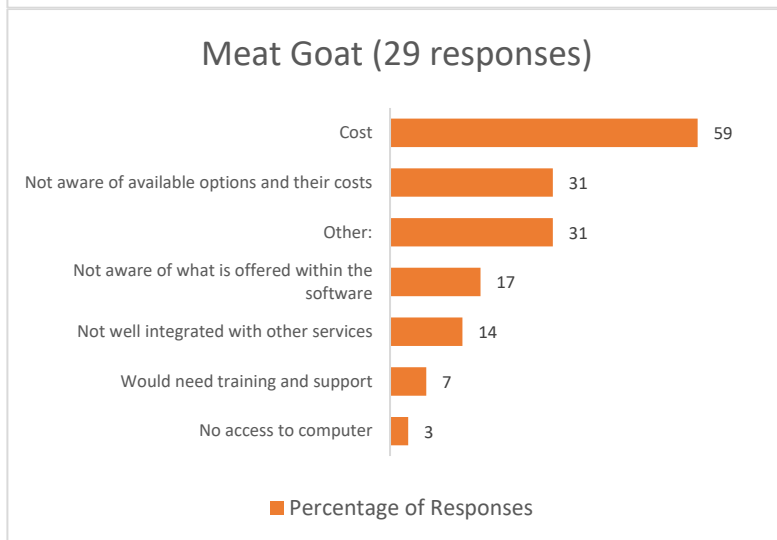


If 'No' was selected above, why are you not using herd management software?



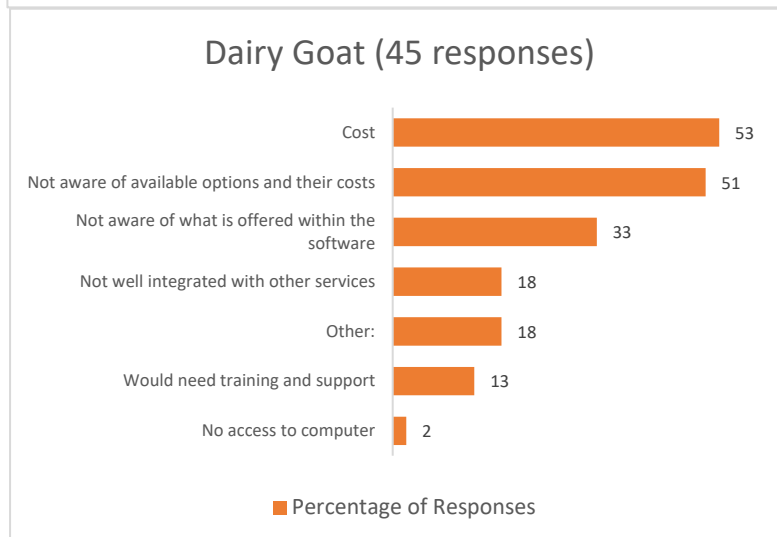
Other responses:

- Commercial required blanket permission to use, share, and retain our data
- Numbers do not warrant software purchase. Daughter works Excel
- I like my paper and pen
- We use GenOvis
- Don't have enough to warrant it
- Time consuming to set up, expensive to maintain, no local representative for software
- Petit troupeau de 50 brebis
- I don't feel I need and I cannot afford another cost
- Time, neurodivergence



Other responses:

- I like my paper and pen
- I don't see how it adds value to management decisions, it's just another overhead cost. I have detailed paper records and grazing plans,
- Je n'en vois pas l'utilité vu la taille de mon troupeau
- Time, neurodivergence
- Have not found a satisfactory option for our operation
- Il n'est pas obligatoire de taguer les chèvres et encore moins d'utiliser des tags électroniques. On veut des microprocesseurs comme les usa
- Je suis encore trop petit pour investir dans un logiciel

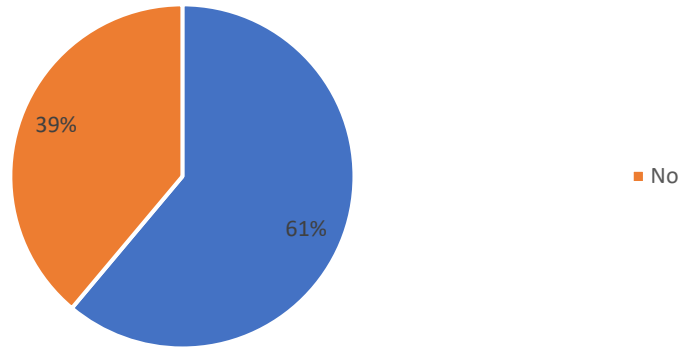


Other responses:

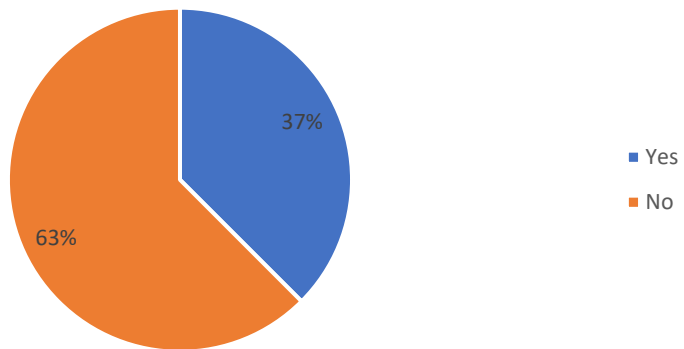
- I have very few animals now. Had 40 goats and 14 sheep back in the 1990's.
- Je suis en démarrage et vu qu'il n'y a pratiquement aucun financement dans la chèvre laitière je vais avec les priorités.
- Time, neurodivergence
- Have not found a satisfactory option for our operation
- Herd not big enough
- What I've tried out there is also clunky and inefficient compared to, say, reptile trackers
- Déjà eu siga chèvre mais très compliqué et peu compatible avec le contrôle laitier et CLRC
- I just use Excel and keep charts

Do you use the data collected for herd management purposes to obtain genetic evaluations for your animals?

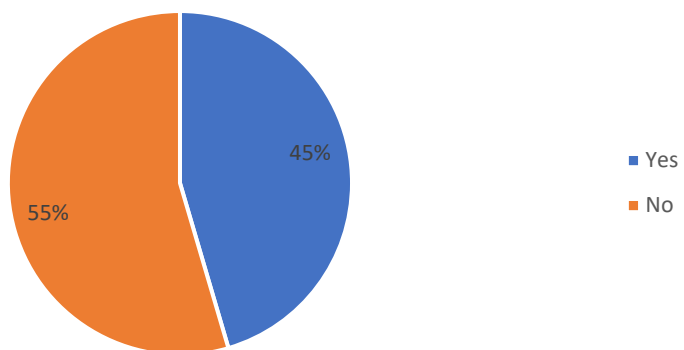
Meat Sheep (126 responses)



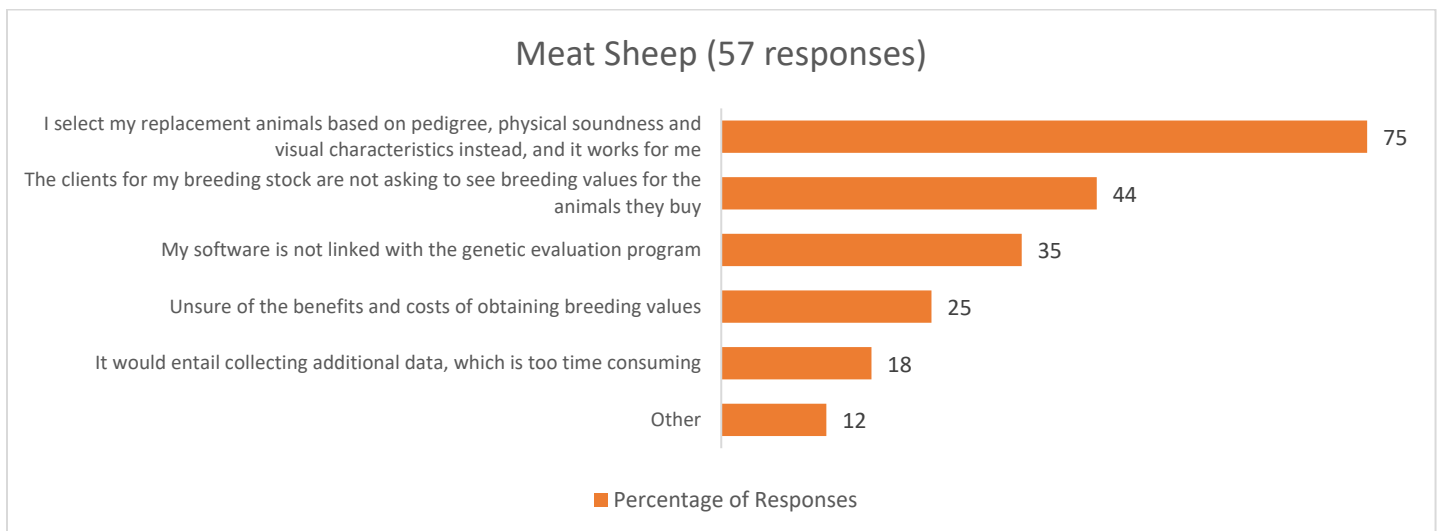
Meat Goat (56 responses)



Dairy Goat (66 responses)

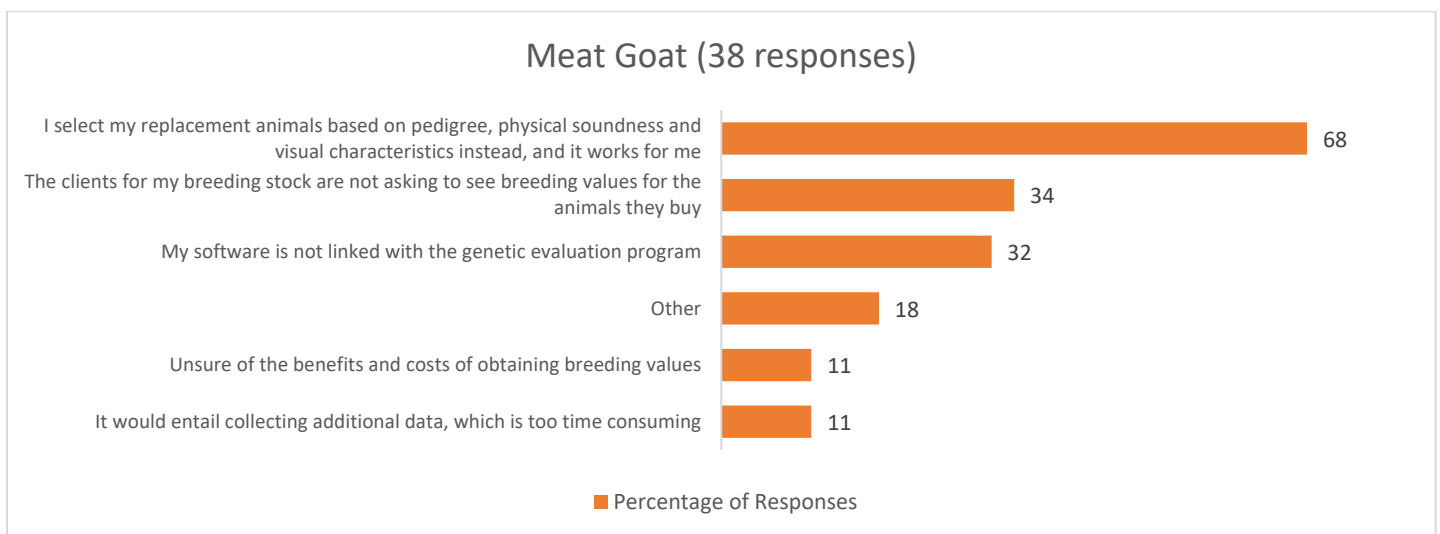


If not, are there specific reasons for not obtaining breeding values based on this data?



Other responses:

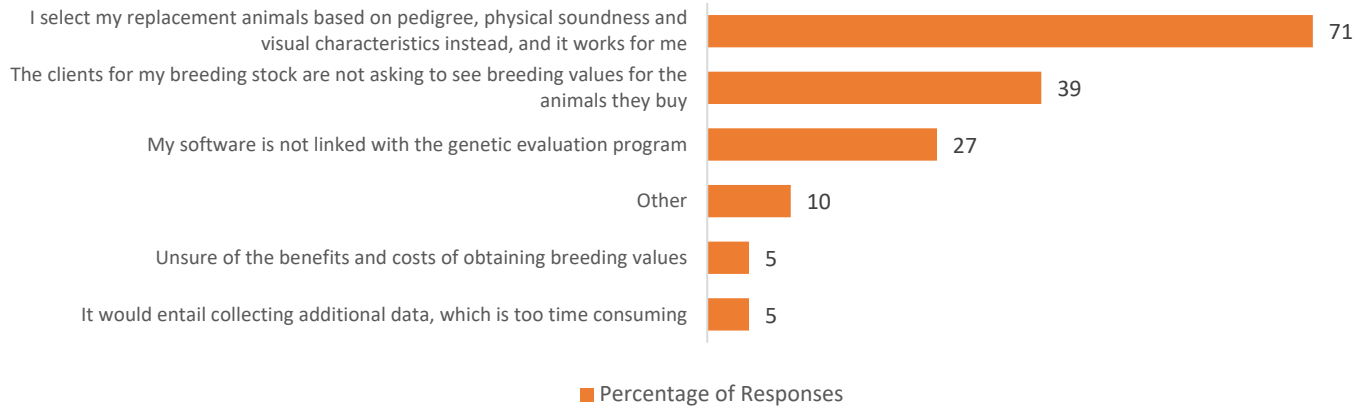
- I would like to but that falls under the management practices of the person that is custom feeding my flock and they are not data-inclined
- It would entail collecting additional data, which is too time consuming
- Tous vendus pour la viande
- Not enough animals of my breed in Canada to be relevant information
- Environmental adaptation isn't considered
- Cost to participate
- Canadian programs have too small of a data base to make information relevant for small number breeds. We run Bluefaced Leicesters and would make more sense to use UK EPD and genetic markers than the few Canadian ones
- I'm not quite sure how you're using the term "breeding values" here



Other responses:

- N'est pas disponible pour la chèvre de boucherie
- The CMGA program is under remodel.
- Hard to put values without an industry standard to relate too
- Je veux le faire éventuellement
- Je ne connais rien au valeur génétique de mes animaux
- Not a lot of options for Kiko breeders sadly

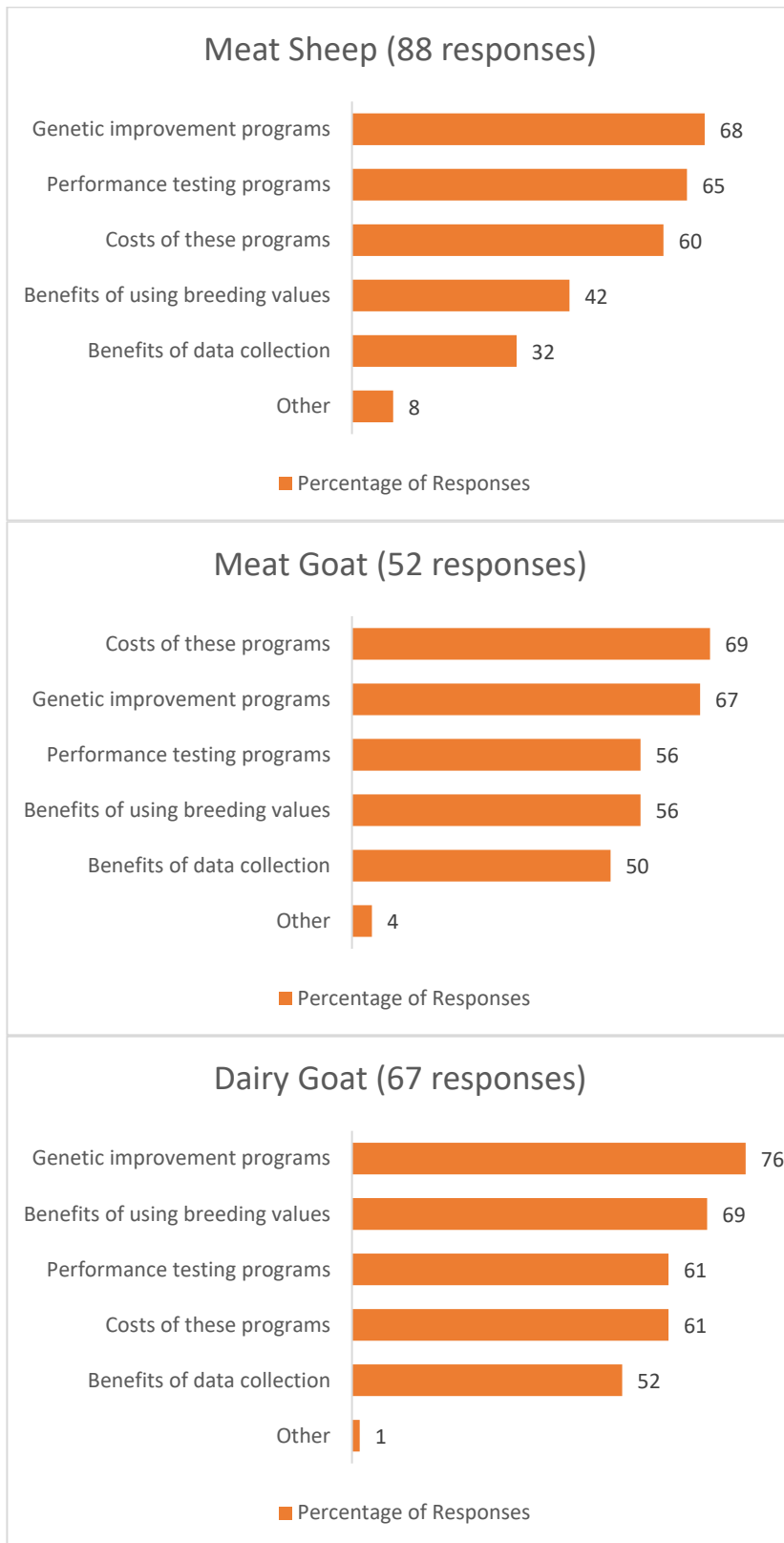
Dairy Goat (41 responses)



Other responses:

- What are breeding values?
- I select based on soundness and pedigree, but would like to do more
- The goats are a hobby only, I don't see a business opportunity
- Je veux le faire éventuellement

Would you like to obtain more information on any of the following:



Other responses:

- No, tired of hearing about it. Been through odyssey and other programs
- Disease and Genetic Testing Programs (Scrapie)
- We use GenOvis
- Participe déjà
- Breed standard classification system
- Je suis sur GénOvis et j'ai comme logiciel de régie Bergère
- Feed Efficiency

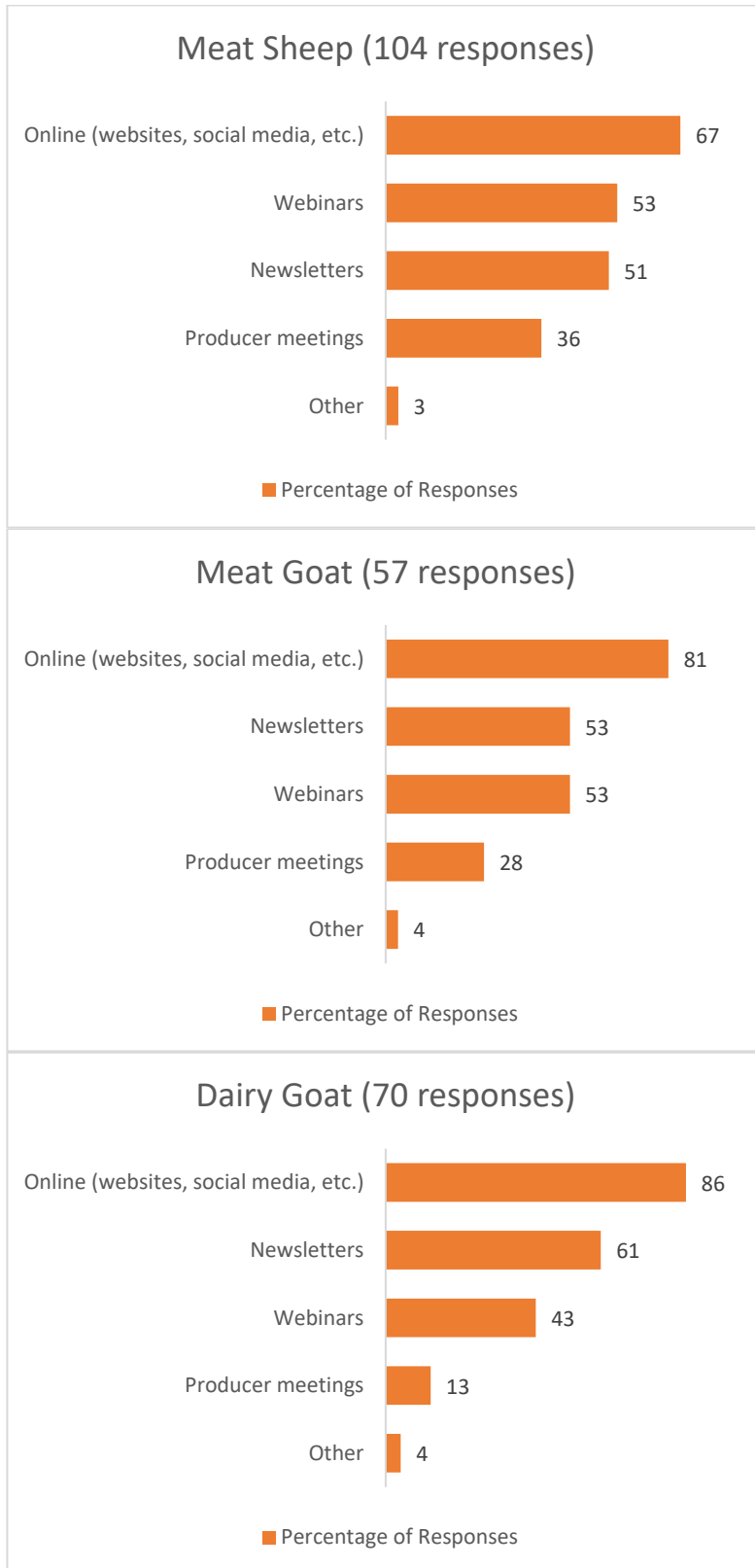
Other responses:

- No not interested
- Non

Other responses:

- No not interested

How would you prefer to access this information?



Other responses:

- Attach to the pedigree at CNLR
- Rencontrer quelqu'un de compétent qui peut réellement répondre aux question
- Maybe one on one meetings to help producers become proficient and use such data to really benefit their farm business.

Other responses:

- Not interested
- Rencontrer quelqu'un de compétent qui peut réellement répondre aux question

Other responses:

- Not interested
- Rencontrer quelqu'un de compétent qui peut réellement répondre aux question
- Email

General Comments

Meat Sheep:

- I would use GenOvis if their data retention agreement were reasonable
- I would like to see more work done on the promotion of GenOvis. It's such a beneficial program however it needs more data. I would like to see a complete upgrade of the CLRC program. It's very archaic the use of mail is so expensive. By performance my answers mean semen testing and ram evaluations. I indicated that we would like to use loin scanning. At the moment it is too expensive as there is no one who does it in our area. I have looked into getting certified but would have to go to another province to do so.
- Small producers probably don't have the time and/or equipment to do performance testing effectively.
- Am only aware of GenOvis for breeding values. There are no producers registered for my breed so not sure if value if participating.
- I am currently testing and selecting my animals for resistance to scrapie and opp. I am interested in staying informed about new genetic tests being developed for other sheep disease, such as Caseus limphadenitis.
- I currently participate in the GenOvis program but would love more information in using it to its fullest
- I'm selling my flock bit by bit. I'm tired
- For some sheep breeds are not enough different blood lines, it should be made easier to import embryos or semen.
- BC has no scanning opportunities. slaughter dates are set before ram goes in.
- Initial flock data entry has been too difficult
- I would loin eye scan if it was available in my area. I would be more interested in doing loin eye areas rather than depth, AI technology is available.
- A lot of data we collect on farm is of huge value, sometimes we might collect too much. It's very important to understand how to use that data to really get value from it. Especially when paying in to data collection services.
- Why are some of the programs only available in Quebec???
- I have a minority breed so that makes gathering of performance information difficult?
- As such a small producer, it is really not much value to me. Only 5-6 goats per year, and 30-35 lamb
- I don't want to have to tag pet stock. Nobody wants the ears tags as they end up often being ripped out and causing unsightly ear damage. And they don't like the look.
- We raise both sheep and goats
- I would like to see more specific information for smallholders, primitive sheep breeders, and dual purpose and/or fibre breeds, not just larger-scaled meat producers.
- Faire en sorte que les enregistrements et transferts de propriété soit moins cher et fait de façon électronique
- Rencontre de producteur et forum ouvert , exprience de chacun vraiment intéressant

Meat Goats:

- I would be interested in participating if you need more goat genetics
- As such a small producer, it is really not much value to me. Only 5-6 goats per year, and 30-35 lamb
- wondering if there was a program offered so 3rd party genetic testing but break it out over different production, i.e dry lot vs pasture based systems.
- We would be interested in access to/development of a gene pool for organic raised animals
- We are a very low input system. Therefore we are just looking for turnover, not focussed on increasing individual performance.
- Je trouve aberrant, cruel, inutile, archaïque de tatouer les chèvres à quand la cessation de ce procédé ???? J'ai fait une plainte au MAPAQ aucun suivi et aucun intérêt de leur part ? Je n'y comprends rien ?
- Avoir une association qui est plus présente et qu'on peut voir sur internet leur réalisation, sur quoi il travaille.
- In a conversation I had with a person who raises seed stock goats they told me 2 things. First they no longer sold any animals for meat, everything that they sold went as breeding stock and 2nd they said that a weaned full blood doeling was worth \$1800 at the time that we spoke. If it was spotted. It may have been hyperbole but someone actually told me that. The signal that the marketplace is sending to the person who raises seed stock is not conducive to the development of animals are of a practical benefit to the commercial meat goat industry. I don't blame people if they can sell animals at a premium because they are full bloods or because of their markings but it doesn't do anything for the person whose is looking for maternal traits. I don't have a solution for this problem and I don't see it going away anytime soon.

Dairy Goats:

- I would be interested in participating if you need more goat genetics
- Would like to see better access (time wise for results and cost) for scrapie testing and G6S testing. More research needs to be done to know what is good genetically. Although there are a few studies (some very old) a few suggest better conformation to a linear score does not really equal a better producing animal milk wise. If we were to follow the science for breeding for milk production we would select for two very specific phenotypes that appear to be 13-25% more productive than goats that do not display these traits, neither is a factor on the classification score card.
- I strongly advocate for using microchips in animal identification, as tattooing and tagging adds unnecessary pain to animals.
- Due to cost associated with registering and my age I'm in the process of downsizing and switching to mini Nubians to have smaller animals to work with. I can no longer manage the full size ones.
- Always interested in learning about new ways to improve my herd management skills
- I have very little information to offer as I now have very few animals . Still able to take care of them at 76.
- I don't want to have to tag pet stock. Nobody wants the ears tags as they end up often being ripped out and causing unsightly ear damage. And they don't like the look.
- I use to import stock from the USA however the difficulty's in doing so has almost slowed my breeding program to a stop. the US breeders focus so hard on good quality, were as most Canadian breeders focus on famous name and a quick dollar. it's so hard to find a buck in Canadian that has such strong genetic traits that he can influence an entire kid crop that is like a bunch of paper cut outs. maybe it's just me that has bad luck but I've gotten dairy bucks that have been registered with double attached teats, and strange genetic defects that they passed to their kids one bad enough its wasn't compatible with life. I've owned 4 us bucks all awesome bucks and 4 Canadian bucks 2 I sent slaughter to ensure they were never used again they should have never been papered. I've learned you cannot buy Canadian bucks sight unseen. I wish there was a way to really focus on our Canadian genetics to ensure we are breeding the best and not just making a quick dollar
- The number of tested progeny required for sire data, etc. makes it difficult for a small herd on the east coast to gain recognition for any breeding stock.
- We raise both sheep and goats
- I am in the early stages of building my herd. I am new to this process and would love to find more information that would help support my decisions.
- We would be interested in access to/development of a gene pool for organic raised animals
- We really need to get off the forced banding/tracing of goats. They are a uniquely domesticated farm animal, especially the mini breeds and it is seriously unreasonable on a non-commercial (like thousands of heads/auction sales) level. Even at auctions, especially the mini breeds, they're going most often for pets and are rarely seen in the mass production quantities for meat. And dairy is illegal off quota in Canada. Nobody is building a full blown dairy off the minis.