

Productive breeds for a profitable economic operation in a preserved environment



The Blanche du Massif Central
358.000 ewes : 2900 farms



The Grivette
20.000 ewes : 500 farms



The Bizet
9000 ewes : 150 farms



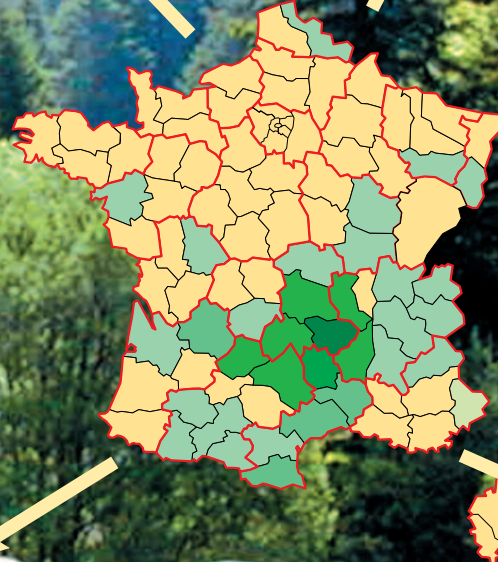
The Rava
33.000 ewes : 300 farms



The Limousine
38.000 ewes : 560 farms



The Noire du Velay
22.000 ewes : 380 farms



The 6 ROM* sheep breeds :

480.000 ewes, 9% of the national nursing livestock – 4.800 farms

**R.O.M = sheep breeds from French mountainous regions.*

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All breeders should benefit from selection Using qualified sires means investing into your flock in order to improve the results:

WHY INVEST INTO THE PURCHASE OF SELECTED GIMMERS ?

• To save time :

– With regard to flock thriving :

It enables a quick growth in numbers while including top quality animals (we don't need to keep 'everything that has got udder' and won't necessarily ends into a profitable ewe).

– With regard to daily work :

The breeder works for the producer as he is the one who :

- Controls his mating mobs so that the buyer knows which type of rams has been used.
- Records the lambing and supervises its offspring so that the buyer knows whether the mothers of the gimmers have got a 1.6 or 0.50 prolificacy rate.
- Carries out the pre-selection according to origin and phenotype in order to set apart ewe lambs either into meat mobs or breeding gimmer mobs.

• To save space :

In some cases, breeding gimmers limits the space which would be useful to fatten the lambs under good conditions.

• To save fodder stock

• To save money :

Only the best gimmers are offered for sale. In a flock with an average productivity of one lamb per ewe a year, if the necessary technical information on reproduction is not available to the producer, the replacement gimmers will have a productivity of 1. The purchase of selected gimmers is a good way of improving the performances and thus the gross margin per ewe.

• To increase your flock resistance to scrapie :

All the available gimmers originate from sires carrying genetic resistance to scrapie.

WHY INVEST INTO THE PURCHASE OF RAMS PROVIDED BY TEST STATIONS ?

• To proceed to an optimum self-replacement,

- If your flock has a good level of performance,
- If your production system enables you to have enough :
 - time
 - space in your barns
 - good available ewes (for cross-breeding systems)

Otherwise, it's better to buy your replacement stock.

Test stations are open to all sheep farmers and provide them with rams having the same traits (the best of the breed) and known outstanding origins.

• To have sanitary guarantees

- To produce top-quality meat lambs, while keeping a simple purebred system.

Let's take the Blanc du Massif Central (BMC) breed : These rams are selected both on the mothering qualities they pass onto their female progeny and on meat qualities which result in well-balanced gimmers and well-conformed meat lambs.

- A ram is the quickest way to make the best genetic improvement within a flock.

A SOUND GENETIC PROGRAM IS THEREFORE THE KEYWORD TO PROFITABLE HUSBANDRY

- Breeders create a genetic value which can be seen through technical results and which is beneficial to all users of qualified sires. This genetic value is transmitted via gimmers as well as via artificial insemination or natural service rams.
- The production of selected gimmers involves drastic technical and sanitary constraints topped by extra costs, which explains their sales price.
- The purchase of the replacement stock makes up an efficient production strategy aiming at rapidly improving the performances

of a flock or at simplifying a high-quality lamb production system. It can be considered as an investment.

- The sales organisation of the sires is clear : each buyer knows the genetic value of the animals offered to him. The improvement of the performances in a flock depends mostly on the choice of the animals which are being introduced.
- The purchasing cost of the sires corresponds to a collective and long term selection work, carried out on the breed as a whole.

THE TECHNICAL SITES FOR THE 'RACES OVINES DES MASSIFS'

(R.O.M = sheep breeds from French mountainous regions)

Blanche du Massif Central : Mende (48) - (33) 4 66 49 16 44 ; Paysat-Bas (43) - (33) 4 71 77 36 83

Limousine : Meymac (19) - (33) 5 55 95 21 13

Noire du Velay : Lantriac (43) : (33) 4 71 05 06 63

Bizet/Rava : Lempdes (63) : (33) 4 73 92 74 07

Grivette : La Tour de Salvagny (69) : (33) 4 78 19 61 64

Test station : Paysat-Bas (43) - (33) 4 71 77 14 14 - (33) 6 79 48 56 94

Antrenas (48) - (33) 6 82 23 89 64