Finn

NUMBERS

749 ewes, 215 in monitored performance recording

MATERNAL QUALITIES

Prolificacy : 2.95
Average weight at 30 days of a male lamb, born a twin : 10,1 kg

MEAT QUALITIES

Average weight of rams : 85 kg
Average weight of ewes : 60 to 70 kg

ORIGINS AND NATURAL APTITUDES

The Finn or Finnsheep is **one of the most prolific breeds in the world** : it's rate of prolificacy is on average 280%, some bloodlines reaching 300%. It's a breed where the females, naturally fertile all year round, **can lamb from one year of age upwards**. It is a white sheep, lacking distinctive physical features which might deter **crossbreeding**, but passing on its purebred strengths to the F1 progeny.

CROSSBREEDING MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

Large scale crossbreeding : The organisation of the crossbreeding of the FINN breed has much in common with the ROMANOV. The females of these two breeds are served by a ram from a meat breed and the progeny are all fattened for the meat trade. This technique means that **lambs of a reasonable conformation can be produced whilst retaining a profitable level of productivity**. The resulting meat weight produced per ewe per year is high.

Crossbreeding in two stages: The first stage is to **produce a crossbred female with better conformation** than the purebred Finn (or ROMANOV) and more prolific than the local breed. This half breed female F1 can be obtained :

- either by crossing the FINN (or ROMANOV) ewe with a local breed of ram ; this way the « F1 » can be produced quicker.

- or from the male FINN (or ROMANOV) with a ewe of a local breed.

At the second stage, the « F1 » females produced, are put to a ram of a meat breed with the aim of producing fat lambs « F2 » for the meat trade. The **carcass weight of « F2 » lambs** is generally between **17 and 19 kg**, graded U and R on the EUROP grid table. This two staged cross breeding is the system used most widely with prolific breeds.

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