



The Provençal goat



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Population :

1050 animals including 1000 females in 2009

Milking qualities :

Average milk production per lactation :

497 kg in 247 days

Protein content : 30.0 g/kg

Fat content : 36.6 g/kg

Contact :

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Origin and breeding area.....

The Provençal goat used to be the local breed of the all Provençal hinterland. In traditional farms which were basically independent, it was raised for its milk. Unlike the Rove goat which followed the transhumance, the Provençal goat remained on the farm.

Protection actions.....

During the 70s and 80s the Provençal goat suffered a significant erosion of its population. In the early 90s, no more than 200 purebred were estimated. It was during these years that some breeders have formed an association to try to save the breed. A survey was used to identify and find some interesting strains. Nowadays the Provençal goat can benefit from a new socio-economic context where the development of local breeds is encouraged. The current situation remains precarious with more than 1000 animals in 20 farms. New herds must grow to maintain the population. With the old strains from traditional farms, the limited genetic variability must be best managed. In

the early 2000s the breed was officially recognized by the Ministry of Agriculture.

Description.....

In this population, the selection on morphological characters was very limited. No attempt at standardization of color has prevailed therefore most of the color patterns present in goat species is found in this population. The animals considered as typed by breeders have some morphological homogeneity: they are generally "rough" looking goats with a rather thick head, large ears which are quite long, sometimes curly (turned over), and a heavy lid.

The goat is rather large and strongly built compared to other local breeds. The goats with long hair on the back under the belly and the pants are preferred.

Ability and performances.....

The Provençal goat was included in the specifications of the union of Banon producers. Present in the cheese production system with parks

and paths in a dry region, and a limited supply of concentrates, some leading farms proved that its use is economically viable. The Provençal goat seems to have milk qualities compared with other local breeds. This potential is expressed late (during the third lactation) and has a good longevity of production.

