

Clustering of lactation curves on French dairy goats

Mathieu Arnal, Christèle Robert-Granié, Helene Larroque

▶ To cite this version:

Mathieu Arnal, Christèle Robert-Granié, Helene Larroque. Clustering of lactation curves on French dairy goats. FAO/CIHEAM Network for Research and Development in Sheep and Goats. Joint Seminar of the Subnetworks (Nutrition and Production systems) and Innovation for Sustainability in Sheep and Goats (iSAGE), Oct 2017, Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain. hal-02736426

HAL Id: hal-02736426 https://hal.inrae.fr/hal-02736426

Submitted on 2 Jun2020

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Analysis of goat lactation curves in France

Mathieu Arnal mathieu.arnal@idele.fr

Hélène Larroque Christèle Robert-Granié



FAO-CIHEAM Seminar on Sheep and Goats, Vitoria-Gasteiz (Spain), 3-5 October











A lactation curve represents the daily production according to the lactation stage



The shape of the lactation curve is of interest for the repartition of feed needs



This presentation focuses on the shape of the lactation

curve



Data presentation



Clustering of lactation curves based on their shapes



The impact of different factors on the shape of lactation curves

Data: Selection from the national dairy test-day database

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Production of about 2000 herds measured every 4 to 5 weeks



2 weighings per check At least 4 controls per lactation



5 goats of the same breed per herd per control



Final data : Years 2009 to 2011 (213 000 goats, 324 547 lactations)

Curves classification

Goat milk production is not measured at the same lactation stage but the information is not averaged by period

Functional data

Package R "fdapace" (Dai et al., 2016)



5 different curves after the classification of lactations according to the 3 components



Days in milk

Relations between different factors and the shape of lactation curves

- Parity
- Age at kidding
- Kidding month
- Dry-period length
- Gestation stage
- Breed
- Milk EBV
- Somatic Cell Score EBV
- Region

Milk Genetic index is the factor the most related to the level of production





Region is one of the factors most related to the level of production



The kidding month is the factor the most related to the persistency and to the curvature at the middle of lactation:



Days in milk

The breed is one of the factors most related to the persistency :



Milk

It was possible to summarize curves with a PCA, to do a classification and to study impacts of environmental factors

- 5 different shapes of curves
- Impact of different factors :
 - Level of production: genetics (milk), region
 - Persistency : kidding month, breed
 - Curvature at the middle of lactation: kidding month



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