

Important things to remember for better data collection

At lambing period note:

- Lambing date
- Unique ID for each lamb (record all the lambs alive and dead)
- Dam and sire ID (if known)
- Number born (1,2,3,4...) → affects milk production
- Sex of the lambs
- Disposal date and reason



During milking season:

How do you milk?

- Milking from day 0
- Milking from day 30
- Mix milking from day 0-30

Note any condition that may affect the milk production: Ewe with mastitis, udder injury...

On the test day record:

- Lactation from 5 to 220 days
- Ideally 5 to 6 tests days recorded/ewe during the lactation (**minimum of 4 records**)
 - Test day record date
 - Milk yield AM (kg)/ewe
 - Milk yield PM (kg)/ewe
 - Milk component (Fat, Protein, SCC)/ewe
(recommended – evaluation for milk production may be done even if no milk analysis is done)



Other components:
Lactose, BHB, Urea

Remember:

- **All ewes** should be milked during a test day record
- Keep the **same milking schedule**
- Try to milk the ewes in the **same order**
- **Do not change your management** for the test day record
- **No « special treatment »** for some animals (different feeding, more space, more time between milking)
- Always **measure** milk weights the **same way**
- Use **accurate recording** and **appropriate tools**
- Note the **number of milkings** per day (once, twice, 3 times...)
- Indicate your **data unit** (kg, lbs, pint, liters.....)

