

HOW TO PLAN YOUR MANAGEMENT GROUP?

WHAT'S A MANAGEMENT GROUP?

The management group is a group of lambs that will be born in the same environment, in the same period and will be raised similarly. (*same building, feeding, ventilation, ...*)

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF A MANAGEMENT GROUP?

- A management group is the basis of a good genetic evaluation.
- A good management group allows to properly **isolate** the **genetic effects** and thus obtain a good genetic evaluation.

Here are some tips to help you make a proper management group.

STEP 1 – PLAN YOUR MANAGEMENT GROUP FROM MATING

<p>A. Try to use at least 2 rams in a mating group.</p>	<p>WHY? GenOvis wants to evaluate differences in genetic. If you use only one ram, you can make genetic evaluation, but it will be less accurate, because the comparison between lambs of different sires won't be possible. The more rams you will have in a mating group, the more accurate will be your genetic evaluation!</p>
<p>B. Try to expose each ram to an equal number of ewes.</p>	<p>WHY? This will help to get close to equal number of lambs born/ram at lambing time and allow to evaluate average offspring performances on a similar number of lambs/ram.</p>
<p>C. Note the breeding techniques used to prepare your females (different techniques = different management groups).</p>	<p>WHY? If you plan to use different breeding techniques (ex : CIDR, natural breeding, photoperiod), you should note it. Ewes receiving hormonal treatment can be more prolific, but this is not the result of genetic! You do not want to make improper genetic evaluation and reduce the genetic value of females that have not received hormonal treatment.</p>
<p>D. Note the start and the end of your mating period.</p>	<p>WHY? In GenOvis, a management group consider all lambs born within a maximum of 41-day period. Outside of that period of time, the comparison between performances is less accurate (too much age difference to compare performances). If your rams stay longer than 41 days with the females, then you must separate the management groups at lambing time.</p>

STEP 2 – ADJUST YOUR MANAGEMENT GROUP AT LAMBING

<p>A. Place the lambs in the same environment.</p>	<p>WHY? GenOvis wants to evaluate differences in genetic and not the effects of environment on lambs' performances. All lambs born and raised in the same building (or pasture) should be placed in the same management group. If some ewes are lambing apart in a different barn and their lambs are raised in another environment, they will be grouped in another management group. Simply note it and send the information to GenOvis (e.g. : management group #1 and #2).</p>
<p>B. All lambs must be born within a maximum of 41-day period.</p>	<p>WHY? This will help to get more accurate comparisons between lambs performances. If your lambing period is longer than 41 days, then create a second management group (e.g.: management group #1 and #2)</p>
<p>C. Give all lambs the same chance to perform equally.</p>	<p>WHY? All lambs born in a management group should have equal chances to perform and to show their genetic potential. Do not give preferential treatment to some lambs (more space, more feed, ...) or this will affect the accuracy of your genetic evaluation.</p>