



FALL 2019

### SUMMARY:

- New services and new GenOvis tools
- New projects to come
- Genetic parameters

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## New Services Offered

The genetic team has developed new tools to facilitate your work and utilize data recorded in the GenOvis database. New services are now available as requested by users.

### CLRC (Canadian Livestock Records Corporation) Sheep Registration

The genetic team can extract the necessary information from the GenOvis database, which is required to register your animals through CLRC.

To do this:

- The parents' registration numbers must have been entered in GenOvis or be manually added by the breeder in the file produced by the genetic team.
- The breeder must provide a list of animals to register - ideally in an Excel file (list of RFIDs or tattoos).
- An Excel file will be sent to the breeder for validation.
- The breeder must send the validated file to the CLRC.

**There is no direct access between GenOvis and CLRC which remain two separate and independent databases.**

### Complete Data File for Sales

It is now possible to have all the information requested by a future buyer in a new Excel file. The genetic team can extract this information from the GenOvis database using a list of animals for sale provided by the breeder.

- The breeder must provide a list of animals for sale—ideally in an Excel file (list of RFIDs or tattoos).
- The complete file will contain all genetic values, performance data, genotyping, classification (conformation), etc. , if this information has been entered in GenOvis.

### Mating rates between two rams

The mating rates indicate the inbreeding level between two rams (genetic proximity) and assess the genetic originality of a new ram when compared to the rams already used in the farm.

This tool also helps breeders to carefully select rams that will meet the needs of commercial producers who produce their own replacements. Large breeders will be able to select and sell a package of unrelated ewes and rams to their buyers.

## New GenOvis Tools

New data can now be entered into GenOvis for users interested in following their ewes' productivity according to the breeding technique used. In addition, the flock evaluation report can now be sorted by breed of lamb, dams' breed or for the entire flock. These new sorting modes provide more flexibility to follow the flock performance especially for users having more than one breed or cross.

### Flock evaluation report

A new sorting mode is now available for the flock evaluation report:

- Data sorted by **lamb breed** (for the lambs born within a selected period)
- Data sorted by **dam breed** (for the dam that gave birth within a selected period)
- **Overall data** (all dams and lambs regardless of the breed/cross)

End Date   By

- By lamb breed
- By dam breed
- Overall

- **To come later:**  
Data sorted by breeding technique

### Recording breeding technique

- Select the management group under the **Animals Tab**.
- Click on **Set preg type** (a button located at the right of the screen above Report & Exports)

**Set preg type**

- Record the number according to the breeding technique used.

0- Unknown  
1- Natural  
2- AI  
3- CIDR  
4- MGA  
5- Photoperiod

Enter breeding type:  
(0=Unknown;1=Natural;2=AI;3=CIDR;4=MGA;5=Photoperiod)

- Click on **Ok**.
- The breeding technique will apply to all the lambs within the selected management group.

### To edit a selected lamb:

- Click on **Edit Selected Animal**
- Fill the field **Pregtype** under **Identification** accordion

**Pregtype**

- Click on **Save**.

## New research project: Ultrasound Measurements

### Creation of a national accreditation program for ultrasound measurement on sheep

This project's main objective is to develop a national accreditation program, in order to establish national standards for ultrasound measurement methods and data recording in GenOvis.

Other objectives:

- To measure the effect of wool and the different type of wool on the quality of ultrasound measurements;
- Evaluate the effectiveness of different probes available for measurements in sheep;
- Evaluate the effect of the immobilization technique on the quality of the measurements performed.





Update required  
every 5 years

*"The new  
parameters are  
more  
representative of  
our current sheep  
population."*

# Genetic Parameters Update

On November 20, 2019, CGIL updated the genetic parameters used in the EPD calculation module. Updating genetic parameters is a standard operation, performed every 5 years, in order to obtain genetic values that are more representative of current animals. These parameters include mainly the heritability of traits and genetic correlations between traits (links between different EPDs). A larger database provides more accurate genetic parameters used to calculate genetic values. An update every 5 years is desirable, as it allows integration of more data and newer data may also be of better quality.

You may notice that the genetic values of your animals have varied slightly as a result of the implementation of the new parameters. The distinction between the biological mother and the adoptive mother (foster), a significant improvement for data quality introduced with the 2016 program change, explains much of the variations in genetic parameters. This improvement and the addition of data within the program has strengthened the relationship between lambs and their mothers, making GenOvis more effective in evaluating these traits.

The new parameters are

more representative of our current sheep population and will allow selection of the most promising replacements for the future. The main trait affected is survival-mat, but some breeders may also notice variations in other traits. Although parameter changes may alter the genetic values, it's unlikely that animal ranking will change. The top performers will remain the top performers.

Please submit the IDs of any animals of which you have concerns following the update of genetic parameters.

## New Project for Commercial Producers

New reports  
adapted for  
commercial  
producers to  
come!



### Reports adapted to commercial farms to improve performance

This project aims to develop new reports adapted for use on commercial farms. Among the reports targeted: reports facilitating selection of unproductive ewes, selection of breeding stock and monitoring flock performance. New commercial producers will be targeted to participate in the development of the reports and to share their needs.

### Contact us:



✉ CEPOQ, 1642, rue de la Ferme  
Ste-Anne-de-la-Pocatière (Qc) GoR 1Z0  
☎ 418 856-1200, extension 221  
@ : [genovis@cepoq.com](mailto:genovis@cepoq.com)  
🌐 : [www.genovis.ca](http://www.genovis.ca)  
🌐 : <http://quartet.aps.uoguelph.ca/csges/>

### Editors:

Cathy Thériault-Landry, APT  
GenOvis Data Entry Service  
Amélie St-Pierre, AHT  
GenOvis Data Entry Service