

AfiShepherd™

Sheep & Goats Management System



afimilk®
Vital know-how in every drop

The importance of automatic data collection and analysis



Achieving profitability with herds, numbering hundreds and sometimes thousands of animals, requires precise management. Achieved by knowing the details and state of each animal, having information at one's finger tips, and being able to make the correct management decisions on a daily basis – all factors that lie at the heart of precision farming. Automatic data collection is the only practical way for achieving an Accurate & Reliable database of information about the animals on the farm.

AfiShepherd is an automated system that captures information about the performance of each animal, builds a database and generates the reports needed for the different aspects and types of decisions required in sheep and goat farms. AfiShepherd is an advanced management tool for the sheep and goat herd farmer and is the result of years of experience and expertise that have been tried, tested and proven in the field.

Main components

The AfiShepherd system uses sensors, transponders and state-of-the-art equipment that collect data about the performance of each animal both inside the milking parlor and in the animal pens. The information flows to the AfiShepherd software program located on the farm's PC where it is stored in a sophisticated database ready to be analyzed and presented in illuminating reports for the farm manager.

The system incorporates the following components:

AfiFree Milk Meter

The first ICAR* approved milk meter for sheep and goats, specifically designed for small ruminant milk measurement. AfiFree measures milk yield and milk conductivity, using a uniquely designed algorithm that alerts for udder disease. It is a user-friendly device that can stop the milking automatically when the milk-flow ceases thus protecting the animals from over milking.

AfiPass Automatic Animal Identification System

An ISO tags identification system that automates the animal identification process. This system is based on an array of antennas, a transponder attached to each animal, and the AfiPass controller that sends the identification data to the AfiShepherd software.

Afi2GO

This optional addition to the AfiShepherd system is a practical aid to the herd manager. Afi2GO is a portable electronic device for reporting events and animal treatments. The information can later be synchronized to the AfiShepherd database. Afi2GO may be equipped with a reading option for RF identification of the animals being treated.

*International Committee for Animal Recording



Benefits of the AfiShepherd System

AfiShepherd provides total control over the milking process and other production factors such as prolificacy and offspring losses. It allows better control over the animals in the herd thus maximizing profits.

AfiShepherd improves many aspects of sheep and goat farming:

Increases herd productivity

AfiShepherd identifies non-productive animals in the herd thereby rationalizing culling procedures resulting in increasing production per animal and profits in a very short time after startup.

Enables branch specialization

The animal data in AfiShepherd allows you to assign animals to branches according to their production efficiency. The best milk producers are gathered and bred for optimal lactation cycles and those animals with the best prolificacy are bred for maximizing offspring.

Optimizes feed consumption

Feeding regimes for milk producers are different from mutton-branch feeding regimes. Accuracy in management and assignment of animals to branches means that each animal receives its optimal ration.

Improves individual animal production

AfiShepherd enables genetic improvement of the animals, assignment of semen according to the destination of the offspring, and controls the balance between production of milk and production of mutton.

