

Charmoise: hardy and well conformed, ideal for an extensive system

Aptitudes :

It adapts to difficult breeding and environmental conditions: it makes the best use of fodder resources of low energy value and is content with little. This makes it possible to increase the stocking rate per hectare and therefore the productivity per unit area.



It draws easily on its body reserves and recovers quickly from peaks in forage resources. During the summer period, it faces a period of drought as **well as a decrease in available vegetation** if it has previously acquired good body reserves.

Particularities :

It is a **slow-growing** breed, therefore very well adapted to the **production of grass lambs** for possible marketing in the fourth quarter as **carry-over lambs**.



It is a breed that has a good aptitude for **natural deseasoning**, which allows it to accelerate its production to three lambings in two years, which can improve its productivity to 1.3-1.4 lambs per ewe and lambing.



Breed used in natural control and AI on ewe lambs for its ease of lambing (fine bone structure) and for its undemanding lambs which do not prevent the young mother from finishing her growth during her first lactation.



This breed is also used in alternative crossing schemes for the **production of an F1 female carrier** combining hardiness and breeding performance.



It is a breed with **exceptional conformation** and a **great ease of handling**.



Its live weight to carcass weight ratio is over 50% for a carcass weight of 16 to 18 kilos, or even more, provided that feed management and genetics are well controlled. Its fine bone structure and conformation give a good meat yield from the carcass.



Despite its advanced age, the lamb retains a **young meat colour**, which justifies the interest of the carry-over lamb.

Performance of the Charmoise breed :

Numbers: 23,000 of which approximately 3,000 are involved in the UPRA selection programme.

Maternal qualities : - Prolificity = 1.14 lambs born per ewe giving birth

- GMQ 10-30 days of single born males = 229 g

Butchery qualities : - Weight of rams = 90 to 100 kg

- Weight of ewes = about 60 kg

- GMQ 30-70 days of single males = 261 g



Carry-over lambs in the Charmoise breed, some advice...

Opt for lambing between April and May to coincide with the normal lambing period for ewe lambs and autumn returns (only part of the flock is affected), in order to allow the lamb to develop skeletally before the summer.

Ewes are supplemented with a farm or commercial feed (500 g in spring and 800 g in winter) before they give birth.

Supplement the ewes after lambing for about 1 month with 800 g and then reduce the ration and stop at the end of the second month.

Lambs feed on their mother's milk and grass until they are weaned at 3-4 months.

They are supplemented at will with a low-energy feed if grass becomes scarce until weaning.

Depending on when the grass starts to grow again, they are put on the best meadows (red clover, white clover and English ryegrass). They must be dewormed regularly, even very often on old grasslands: once a month.

Slaughterable lambs are taken as they are finished. Consider a moderate supplementation according to grass regrowth (maximum 500 g/d).

The unsold stock at the end of the year is put into catch crops or is shorn and finished in the sheepfold.

A commercial feed of the type: 17.96% protein, 0.92 UFL, NDIP: 125 and EIDP: 115 is quite suitable for lamb supplementation.

A farm mix such as 30% barley, 30% wheat, 25% alfalfa pellets and 15% supplement containing 31% protein may be suitable.

Rationed finishing in a sheepfold from mid-September with triticale, oats, nitrogen supplements and triticale straw may be appropriate.

→ This practice generates low production costs since it favours the use of grass growth in spring and autumn, in summer the animal is satisfied with little

