



#### NUMBERS

3000 ewes

#### MATERNAL QUALITIES

Prolificacy : 1.438

#### MEAT QUALITIES

Average weight of rams : 90kg

Average weight of ewes: 60kg

# Solognot

## ORIGINS AND NATURAL APTITUDES

The SOLOGNOT breed originates from the very old population of coloured sheep (brown and white) of the region. From 1800, farmers preferred a reddish coloured sheep who believed this colour was the sign of **pure breed and hardiness**. In fact the reddish colour was the best guarantee against an infusion of blood from either the Merinos – to improve the wool - or English breeds – to improve the conformation. Towards 1850 SOLOGNOT sheep numbers were at their height at an estimated 300,000 head. At this time, the SOLOGNOT, the only breed able to **resist the severe conditions of humidity and very poor vegetation** was to be found beyond the Sologne area and into the Val de Loire, the Beauce and the Gâtinais..

**Conformation** : Lambs of average carcass without excess fat.

**Savoury quality** : The meat tastes exceptionally good, a refined flavour, enriched by the extensive grazing on the farms where it's reared. SOLOGNOT meat is placed in the international rankings of the Slow Food's "Ark of Taste". (Arche du Goût)

**Early maturing**: Ewe lambs are fertile at 8 months. The ewe has good milk value and even in difficult conditions can rear its lambs well.

**Natural year round fertility**: The SOLOGNOT ram is always keen and the ewes are highly apt to be naturally fertile all year round.

**Resistance**: It is resistant to internal parasites. In extensive situations and where the sheep are given space to roam, for example along river banks, the risks are practically nonexistent. The breed is naturally resistant to foot rot.

## BREEDING PROGRAMME

The SOLOGNOT has small numbers today and in 1968 a genetic reserve management programme was created. This aims to plan the matching of rams to ewes in order to avoid inbreeding or consanguinity. The national flock is thus divided into **10 families** around a virtual circle, or clock face, so that a group of males of one family is attributed to a group of females of a different family. The progeny remain in the mother's family group. A **ram evaluation Centre** has been created in the heart of the Sologne which aims to improve the genetics of these different families with the best young males of each family being selected in the autumn in preparation for the ram sales the following summer.

## STRENGTHS & MARKET STRENGTHS

The SOLOGNOT ewe **stands out as a breed which can make the most of poor grazing, such as the wooded undergrowth of the Sologne and by its exceptional ability to withstand sudden nutritional variations** (a regime so-called the accordion effect). It's a very good walker and its aptitude for clearing ground makes it indispensable for grassland management ( **sensitive zones**, natural parks, Natura 2000 conservation areas ,river banks or also where **human or mechanical access is restricted**, for example on very steep slopes...). Its distinct liking for grazing undergrowth prevents woods from becoming inaccessible because of shrubby regrowth.

No other breed clears up and maintains rough ground as well as the SOLOGNOT. It is the first choice for those responsible for **eco-friendly pastoral management** across France.

For this reason the national flock numbers are rising and the demand for ewe lambs is strong. Whether for females or males, **GEODE manages the supply and demand, by reservation contracts** on a national level. The annual sale of young rams from the ram evaluation centre takes place where the breed originates - in the heart of the **Sologne**.



### CONTACTEZ-NOUS

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