

1. INTRODUCTION

Since the establishment of our first stud flock, a remarkable number of striking characteristics of the Ile de France have become familiar on the South African scene. The Ile de France is a large, smooth-bodied, polled sheep with a balanced, well-fleshed conformation and a fleece free pigmentation. The breed is renowned for its excellent growth rate, outstanding muscle development and free of excessive fat, as well as high fertility and good mothering ability. Its ability to breed out-of-season enables lambing to take place in autumn and for the lambing interval to be reduced to 7-8 months, allowing 3 lambings in 2 years.

2. ILE DE FRANCE BREED OBJECTIVES

As is the case with most other concerns, the Ile de France Society determined certain goals, i.e. to strive towards effective meat production within a given environment measured as maximum return of quality meat (in other words, total mass of lamb produced per hectare) per unit of metabolic mass of the breeding ewe together with wool of an acceptable quality which further contributes to the total net income. These goals are pursued and can be obtained by selecting for:

- effective ewe production, i.e. fertility (age at sexual maturity, conception ability and lambing intervals), fecundity (number of lambs born per lambing) and mothering ability (number of lambs weaned and milk production)
- improved lamb growth for increased carcass weight and quality.

3. THE ILE DE FRANCE SELECTION SYSTEM

The Ile de France -breed is unique in that it is one of few breeds having its own scientifically formulated selection system, formulated for the optimum attainment of the above economic goals.



4. BREED CHARACTERISTICS

4.1 CONFORMATION

The Ile de France is a polled, white sheep with a fleece free of pigmentation and is renowned for the following conformation characteristics:

- 4.1.1 Dearth
- 4.1.2 Breed with good length
- 4.1.3 Well muscled
- 4.1.4 Well balanced body

4.2 PRODUCTION QUALITIES

4.2.1 Birth Mass

Lambs are small under normal feeding practices (approx. 4kg) and lambing problems seldom occur. The vigour of lambs is remarkable, odd to that the outstanding mothering ability, and the result is that birth mortality is limited to a minimum.

4.2.2 Growth Rate

The Ile de France lamb has excellent growth ability and with good nutrition, weights of between 19 and 22kg at 42 days and between 34 and 41kg at 100 days can easily be achieved. Hence the popularity of the Ile de France and Ile de France cross lambs - it enables the producer of slaughter lambs to market lambs as early as 100 days and, therefore, more ewes can be kept on the same size of pasture.

4.2.3 Carcass Qualities

Results achieved in the National Carcass Competition undoubtedly prove that the Ile de France has outstanding carcass characteristics. Remarkable are:

- 4.2.3.1 Free of excessive fat
- 4.2.3.2 Outstanding muscle
- 4.2.3.3 Large percentage of better cuts (see table 1)

4.2.4 Sexual Maturity

Ewe lambs can be mated at an early age provided they are well-developed with an average body mass of approximately 50kg. This outstanding early sexual maturity enables the breeder to practise selection sooner and call older animals young productive replacement ewes can be kept in the flock for a shorter period.

4.2.5 Mating

The ability to breed "out of season" makes it possible to let ewes lamb every 7-8 months, which in practice means that 1,3 natural cycle pregnancies per year are achieved.

4.2.6 Prolificy

Ewes have an outstanding multiple pregnancy

ability and lambing percentages of 150 to 170% is achieved in flocks. Where the system of 3 lambing seasons in 2 years is adopted, a lambing percentage of 220% is no exception. Prolificy of an ewe is determined by her age rather than by season of lambing. Rams can be used from 10 months of age provided they are well-developed. Ile de France rams are active workers.

4.2.7 Milk Production and Mothering Ability

The milk yield of ewes is exceptionally good and twins and triplets are reared without difficulty. Remarkable is the outstanding mothering abilities of the Ile de France ewe with a closely linked bond between ewe and lamb as a result.

4.2.8 Life Span

Ewes still maintain production at the age of 9-10 years depending on nutrition. The case on record of a ewe of 11 years that produced 29 lambs is indeed proof to substantiate this fact. (see table 2)

4.2.9 Adaptability

Ile de France exists in 30 countries around the world. The breed is renowned for its excellent performance under intensive, semi-intensive and extensive conditions.

4.2.10 Wool Qualities

The Ile de France produces a white, strong wool with a fleece free of pigmentation. The weight of a 12-month fleece is 3-4,5kg for ewes and 5-6kg for rams with a staple of between 80 and 90mm. First generation crosses with Merino ewes produce an outstanding medium wool.

4.2.11 Crossing Ability

The Ile de France ram conveys its exceptional conformation, muscle development and fast growth rate to its progeny with dominating effect. This quality is mainly responsible for the popularity of the Ile de France ram amongst producers of slaughter lambs and the breed indeed makes a big contribution, to supply the consumer with quality lamb. Ile de France cross-bred females are high in demand due to their fertility, good milk production and outstanding mothering ability.

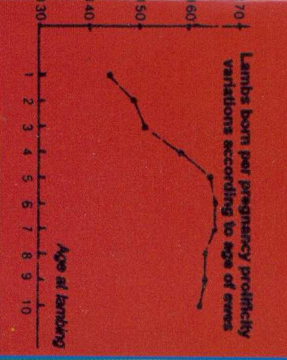
4.2.12 Society

The Ile de France Sheep Breeders' Society is based in Bloemfontein and as further support, 3 clubs exist in the R.S.A. Inspections for functional efficiency are done by well-trained breed inspectors who also ensure that the breed standards are maintained at a high level. Prospective breeders and commercial slaughter lamb producers are invited to contact the Society at the address on the back of this flyer.

Tabel 1 / Table 1

1. Lengte	27,1 (24,9)
2. Lams gewig	4,6 (3,2)
3. Lams gewig per kg	16,8 (21,1)
4. Lams gewig per ha	6,8 (23,5)
5. Stokwiel	70,2 (14,0)
6. Stokwiel	8,3 (23,0)

Tabel 2 / Table 2



1. INLEIDING

As 'n vleesskopp bried die Ile de France die voorrefle eienskappe van 'n groot, diep, breed, goed geweesde en gebolnseerde figuurstou. Die Ile de France is poenskap en het 'n witalvolg sonder gekleurde velsels. Die ras is beroemd vir sy uitstekende groeiempo en spierontwikkeling en die dwarsgheid van oornagte vet, sowel as hoë vrugbaarheid en goeie moederenskappe. Sy vermoë om buite seisoen te teel maak herfstlammeroeste en die verkorring van lammeroeste na 7-8 maande moontlik wat die lammeroeste in twee jaar lewer.

2. ILE DE FRANCE RASDOELWITTE

Soos die geval by meeste ander odelennings, het die Ile de France Geboortskap ook sekere doelwitte deur gestel, n.l.: Om te streef na doelfreidende vleisproduksie binne 'n gegewe omgewing gemeet as maksimum opbrengs kwantiteit vleis (d.w.s., totale massa lam geproduseer per faktorie) per eenheid van metaboliese massa van die teelooi tesame met wol van 'n aanvoudende gehalte wat ook bydra tot die totale netto inkomste. Hierdie doelwitte word nagestreef en kan bereik word deur te selekteer vir:

- doelfreidende ooi produktiwiteit (d.w.s., vrugbaarheid (aandadom by geslagsvryheid, konsepseremoë en lamminervolte); tekwidrieti (hoeveelheid lammerse gebore per lamming) en meeleienskappe (aantal lammerse gespeen en melkproduksie)
- Verbeterde langwoer om 'n verhoogde karkasgewig en kwidrieti deur te stel

3. ILE DE FRANCE SELEKSIESTELSEL

Die Ile de France-ras is uniek in die sin dat dit een van die min rasses is wat beskik oor sy eie wetenskaplik geformuleerde selektsiestelsel, geformuleer vir die optimale bereiking van bogenoemde ekonomiese doelwitte.

4. RASEIENSKAPPE EN KENMERKE

4.1 BOUVOORM
Dit is 'n poenskap witalvleesskopp sonder gekleurde

teel mark dit moontlik om elke 7-8 maande te laat lam wat in die praktyk 1,3 draagtyede per ooi per jaar beteken.

4.2.6 Vrugbaarheid

Oe beskik oor 'n uitstekende meefling vermoë en lamperisente van 150 tot 170% kom in kuddes voor. Waar die stelsel van 3 lamseisoene in 2 jaar toegepas word, is 'n lamperisente van 220% geen uitsondering nie. Vrugbaarheid van die ooi word eerder behouwe deur haar ouderdom as deur die lamseisoen.

Ramme kan reeds vanaf 10 maande gebruik word as hul voldoende uitgroei het. Ile de France ramme is aktiewe werkers.

4.2.7 Melkdoel en Moederenskappe

Oie het besonder baie melk en maak twee- en driejarige melkgraad groot. Kenmerkend is die uitstekende moederenskappe van die Ile de France ooi.

4.2.8 Lewensduurte

Oie produseer op 'n ouderdom van 9-10 jaar nog uitstekend en hulle goeie voeding onhang. Spreekend is die geval van 'n ooi van 11 jaar met 'n produksie van 29 lammerse. (sien tabel 2)

4.2.9 Aanpasbaarheid

Ile de France is reeds in meer as 30 lande regoor die wêreld gevestig. Die ras is bekend vir sy uitstekende prestasies onder intensiewe, semi-intensiewe en ekstensiewe toestande.

4.2.10 Wolenskappe

Die Ile de France produseer 'n wit wol sonder gekleurde velsel en is teelik sterk. Tweelf maande volge van oole weeg 3-4,5 kg en die van ramme 5-6 kg met 'n stropelengte van tussen 80 en 90 mm. Eerste kruise met Merino-ooie lewer 'n uitstekende medium wol.

4.2.11 Kruisings

Die Ile de France besit 'n baie sterk erfwoer en die ramme dra hul uitstekende bouvorm, spierontwikkeling en winnige groei baie sterk oor op hul nageslag. Hierdie eienskappe maak die Ile de France ram baie gewild vir die produksie van slaglammerse en lewer 'n groot bydrae tot kwidrieti vels - iets wat die verbruiker meer en meer op aandag. Die Ile de France kruisooie is geweldig sterk in oornagw omede hul hoe vrugbaarheid, goeie melkproduksie en uitstande moederenskappe.

4.2.12 Genooskap

Die Ile de France Skapregeenootskap, gesetel in Bloemfontein, word ondersien deur klubs versprei oor die heel land. Goed opgelede keuters behartig keuring vir funksionele doelfreidheid en verseker dat hoe aanstandende gehelddraaf slaglamproduksie word vrentelik uitgenooi om meer inligting besonderhede te bekom. (Sien kontakbesonderhede agterop pamflet)