

Sheep-breeding and Goat-breeding in Bulgaria – Development and Prospects

Republic of Bulgaria
Ministry of Agriculture and Food
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Change in number of sheep and goats

	Total /in thousands/			Including dams /in thousands/		
	01.11. 2006	01.11. 2007	% 2007/ 2006	01.11. 2006	01.11. 2007	% 2007/ 2006
Sheep	1 635,4	1 526,4	- 6,7%	1 296,1	1 233,4	- 4,8%
Goats	549,1	495,5	- 9,8%	450,6	406,1	- 9,8%

Distribution of fertilized sheep and ewes according to animals bred in a farm towards 01.11.2007

Number of animals in a farm	Farms number	Change 2007/2006	Fertilized sheep and two-year reared lambs /in thousand/	Change 2007/2006
1 - 9	126 789	- 12,6%	479,2	- 12,8%
10 - 19	12 245	- 11,7%	149,0	- 11,9%
20 - 49	5 702	- 23,7%	167,1	- 23,5%
50 - 99	2 920	4,2%	194,2	6,5%
100 and more	1 568	8,4%	302,7	13,2%
<i>Total</i>	<i>149 224</i>	<i>- 12,6%</i>	<i>1 292,2</i>	<i>- 6,8%</i>

Distribution of fertilized goats according to the number of goats reared in a farm towards 01.11.2007

Number of animals in farms	Farms number	change 2007/2006	Fertilized goats –dams and young goats /in thousand/	change 2007/2006
1 - 9	148 541	- 14,5%	325,3	- 14,4
10 - 19	2 658	- 12,7%	33,3	- 10,0
20 - 49	1 458	- 1,2%	41,7	- 3,0
50 - 99	278	15,4%	17,7	25,5
100 and more	94	135,0%	13,9	143,9
<i>Total</i>	<i>153 029</i>	<i>- 14,3%</i>	<i>431,9</i>	<i>- 10,0</i>

Changes in sheep-breeding farms

- The decrease in the sheep breeding farms number in 2007 is significantly bigger (-12,3%) compared to the preceding observed period (-5,8%). The number of the sheep decreases with 6,7%;
- The number of farms breeding between 1 and 9 sheep –dams and ewes has decreased with 12,6%;
- The number of farms breeding 100 and more sheep-dams and ewes increases. The number of the animals in these farms increases with 13,2%.

Changes in the goats breeding farms

- The number of the goats breeding farms continues decreasing (-14,3%) and towards 01.11.2007 they are 153 thousand.
- From 52 in 2006, the number of the farms breeding 100 and more goats have increased to 106 in 2007. There they breed 16,8 thousand animals.

Selection activity

- Selection criteria – lactose milk-yield, wool-yield, fecundity, intensity of growth;
- Selection activities are conducted with sheep breeds of various productivity trends. The biggest is the share of the controlled sheep of milk-yield trend, aborigine and fine-fleece trend.
- Fecundity – for the sheep of 100 sheep-dams it is 125,4%, for the goats the fecundity reaches 157,8% from 100 goats-dams.
- Wool yield – average 3,5 kg for all categories of sheep, whereas for the fine-fleece trend, it is 7,1 kg.

Sheep breeds reared in Bulgaria

- Milk-yield trend – Plevenska chernoglava, Synthetic population Bulgarian lactic
- Import from Île-de-France, Mutton Sharole
- Fine-fleece and semi-fine-fleece breeds
- Local breeds – karakachanska, mednochervena shumenska, dabenska replyanska, starozagorska

Produce of sheep and goat milk

- The produce of sheep and goat milk comes 172 081 tones, which is 12,96% from the total of the milk yielded in 2007. More than 84 907t sheep milk and 87 174t goat milk are produced. The sheep milk yield has decreased with 21%, and the decrease of goat milk is with 14,8% according to the year of 2007.
- 82 036 liters sheep milk are yielded from 1 122 thousand sheep-dams at average milk-yield of 73 liters. The average goat milk-yield is 208,6 liters.

Produce of sheep and goat meat

- **Following the initial data the meat produce from DRD (sheep and goats) has decreased with 10,5% according to 2006 to 21 277,6 tones abattoir weight.**
- **Traditionally in the small stock-breeding farms the bigger part of the production is for own consumption.**

Prospects of sheep and goats breeding development

- stock-taking and monitoring of the genetic resources;
- increasing the number of sheep and goats heads – lack of quota restrictions for the sheep and goats products;
- specialization in trends :
 - development of milk-yield sheep breeding;
 - development of meat-yielding sheep breeding;
- implementation of good agriculture and farmers practices;

Priorities in sheep and goats breeding development

- integration of flocks;
- technological renewal of sheep-breeding farms, including machine milking introduction;
- training and scientific services;
- produce of qualitative lamb meat-light and heavy carcasses, classified according to the rate of (S)EUROP.

Prognoses for sheep and goat breeding development

- **Maintaining the number of sheep-dams with milk-yield trend;**
- **Increase in the average milk yield productivity through improvement of selection activities level;**
- **Intensive development of specialized meat yield sheep breeding;**

Prognosis for the sheep and goats breeding development

- **Growing the rate of the flocks integration.**
- **Optimization the size of the farms-formation of modules of sheep-dams for milk and meat yield trends.**
- **Moderate use of multi fecundity trends in sheep breeding during the process of hybridization**

Tendencies in sheep and goats breeding

- **Provision of the necessary pasture territories and the effective use;**
- **Intensive specialization for produce of meat from heavy lambs in order to attain new market niche in EU;**

Tendencies in sheep and goats breeding development

- **Stimulation of artificially insemination, purchasing of brood-animals of meat yield breeds and the intensive use;**
- **Support in breeding of young brood-animals;**
- **Intensive selection for achieving of higher average-day growth in the reproductive flocks;**
- **Intensification of the lamb dropping – 3 for two years or 5 for three years.**

Targets achievement requires:

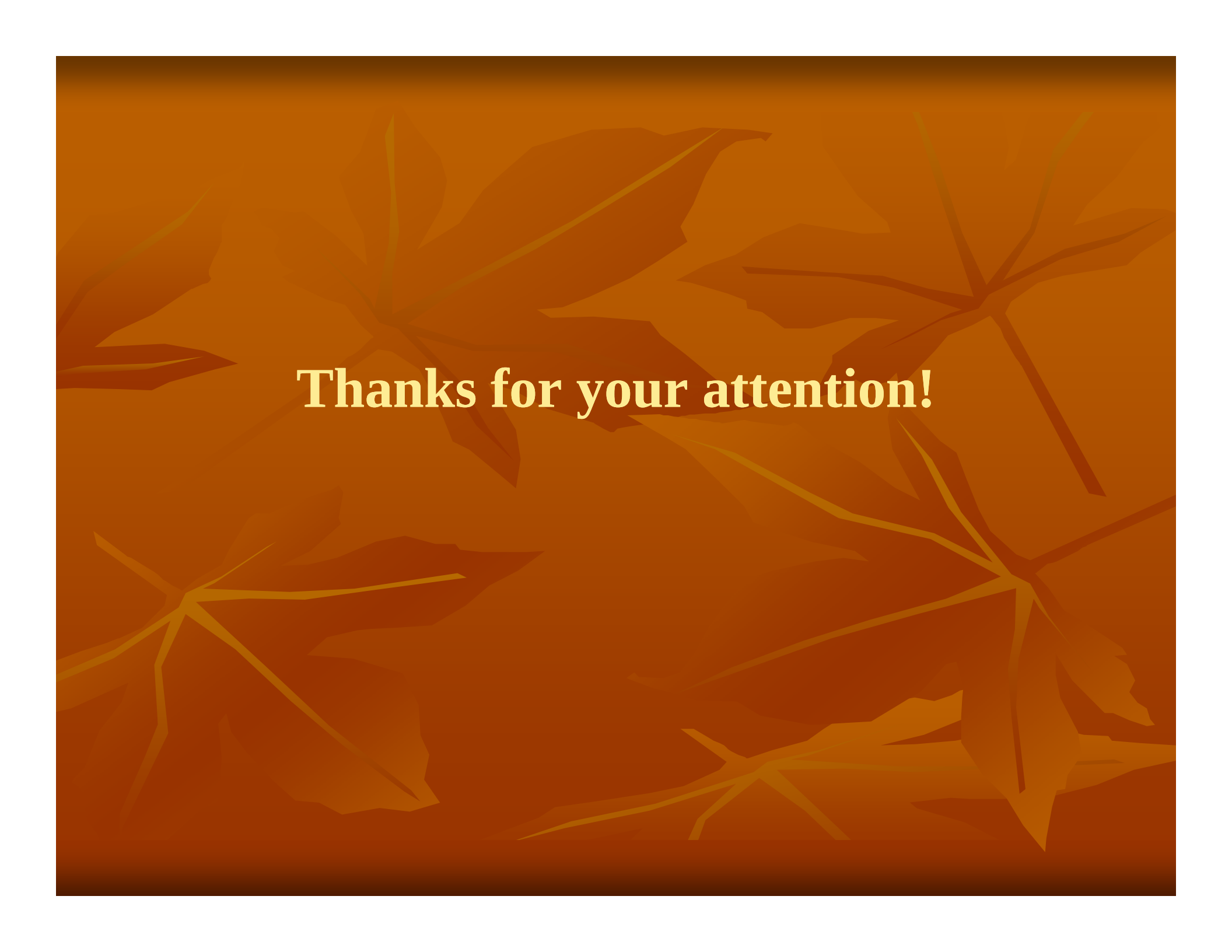
- Subsidizing the animals of the National gene-fund and the Controlled part of the population biology;
- Construction of national reproductive centre for testing rams by posterity, preservation of seminal liquid and embryos;
- Supporting of breeding organizations in the field of sheep and goat rearing;
- Stimulating the qualitative sheep and goat milk produce;

Financial resources for promotion of the sector

- *DF 'Agriculture'**

- *Investments under 'Rural Regions Development Programme'**

- *Export payments for export of dairy products and for export of sheep and goats' milk.**

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Thanks for your attention!